



New York Archbishop Cardinal Timothy Dolan greets the media as he arrives at the Saint Mary of Guadalupe church to celebrate a mass, in Rome, Sunday March 10, 2013.
Associated Press

Before the conclave, horse-trading has begun

VICTOR L. SIMPSON
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican insists that the cardinals participating in the upcoming conclave will vote their conscience, each influenced only by silent prayers and reflection. Everybody knows, however, that power plays, vested interests and Machiavellian maneuvering are all part of the game, and that the horse-trading is already under way. Can the fractious Italians rally behind a single candidate? Can the Americans live up to their surprise billing as a power broker? And will all 115 cardinals from around the world be able to reach a meeting of minds on whether the church needs a people-friendly pope or a hard-edged manager able to tame Vatican bureaucrats?

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6th grade students at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Waverly, Iowa, pose for a photo on March 6, 2013. The class had their upcoming visit canceled as the White House suspended all tours under across-the-board government spending cuts in a partisan budget battle. The disappointed class put a video on Facebook asking for the tour to be reinstated. "The White House is our house, please let us visit," the children say in unison.

Associated Press

Lawmakers: Obama wooing might break budget logjam

PHILIP ELLIOTT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican lawmakers said they welcome President Barack Obama's recent courtship and suggested the fresh engagement between the White House and Congress might help yield solutions to the stubborn budget battle that could cost thousands of Americans their jobs. Yet the lawmakers cau-

tioned Sunday that years of hurt feelings were unlikely to heal simply because Obama dined last week with Republican lawmakers. They also said they would not to rush too quickly into Obama's embrace during three scheduled, and unusual, visits to Capitol Hill next week to win them over. "He is moving in the right direction. I'm proud of

him for doing it. I think it's a great thing," Republican Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, said. "I'm welcoming (him) with open arms. I think the president is tremendously sincere. I don't think this is just a political change in tactic. I think he would actually like to solve the problems of this country." The White House charm offensive comes as automatic spending cuts have

begun to take hold, and if Washington does not block them, they could cut jobs as varied as air traffic controllers, meat inspectors and pre-kindergarten teachers. Across-the-board spending cuts that require \$85 billion to be trimmed by the end of the budget year on Sept. 30 were triggered on March 1.

Continued on Page 2

Obama

Continued from front

The Defense Department will absorb almost half of the spending cuts with the rest spread out among other federal agencies. The automatic cuts derive from a budget dispute they were supposed to help resolve back in the fall of 2011. At the time, a congressional Supercommittee was charged with identifying at least \$1.2 trillion in deficit savings over a decade as part of an attempt to avoid a first-ever government default. The president and Republicans agreed to create a fallback of that much in across-the-board cuts, designed to be so unpalatable that it would virtually assure the panel struck a deal. The Supercommittee dissolved in disagreement, though. And while Obama and Republicans agreed to a two-month delay last January, they failed to reach agreement to prevent the first installment of the cuts from taking effect. The White House insists on a balanced approach that includes both spending cuts and raising revenues by closing tax loopholes benefiting the wealthiest Americans and corporations. Republicans oppose any new tax increases beyond the \$600 billion increase on the highest wage earners that cleared



Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., speaks with reporters as he leaves the Jefferson Hotel after a dinner meeting hosted by President Barack Obama for a few Republican Senators in Washington, Wednesday, March 6, 2013.

Congress at the beginning of the new year. In the ensuing weeks, relations between the White House and congressional Republicans grew increasingly acrimonious as each side tried to blame the other for the impasse in budget negotiations. But last week, Obama invited a dozen Republican senators to dinner at a Washington hotel and lunched at the White House with Republican Rep. Paul Ryan, chairman of the House Budget Committee. "I hope that this is sincere," said Ryan. "We had a very good, frank exchange.

But the proof will be in the coming weeks as to whether or not it's a real, sincere outreach to find common ground." Republican Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin — who has proved a fiery foil to Obama's agenda — said he heard from White House chief of staff Denis McDonough and now is willing to give "the president the benefit of the doubt." "If we're going to solve these problems, it's going to have to be done on a bipartisan basis ... and I think most Republicans are more than willing to work with this president," said Johnson, a favorite of the

ultraconservative tea party movement which favors limited government. Obama hopes this week to further woo lawmakers to help avert a coming budget showdown — the next deadline is March 27, when the current short-term budget extension expires and a government shutdown looms. Yet Congress is scheduled to leave town on March 22, meaning the president is working on a shortened timeline to avert the latest crisis. And the automatic spending cuts, known as sequester, remain in place despite both parties calling them ill-conceived and

-executed. Senate Democrats said they were ready to pass a spending measure to pay for day-to-day federal operations through September. The measure would impose automatic cuts of 5 percent to domestic agencies and 7.8 percent to the Pentagon. "At the end of the day, we're going to have to find a balanced solution," said Sen. Tim Kaine, a Virginia Democrat whose state economy is closely tied to military contractors. The budget cuts are expected to be devastating to Virginia if they are not reversed. Obama seems to be making up for lost time after four years of frosty relationships with Capitol Hill. The White House said Obama planned to meet with the Senate Democratic Caucus on Tuesday, House Republicans on Wednesday and Senate Republicans and House Democrats on Thursday. Last week, Obama had Ryan and the Budget Committee's top Democrat, Rep. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, to lunch at the White House the day after he dined with a dozen Republican senators. Republican Whip Kevin McCarthy, the number-three Republican lawmaker in the House of Representatives, said Obama's visit might be plain politics and tried to tamp down expectations. □

Budget cuts force military jets to drop air shows



In this Friday, Oct. 12, 2012 file photo, two U.S. Navy Blue Angels execute a crossing maneuver at close range during the Miramar Air Show in San Diego. Deep budget cuts in Washington mean military flight teams are expected to be no-shows at air shows across the U.S. starting this spring, leaving dozens of host cities bracing for thinner crowds and lost tourism dollars.

Associated Press

RUSS BYNUM
Associated Press
SAVANNAH, Georgia (AP) — Even a rural festival celebrating the harvest of Georgia's famous sweet onions isn't safe from the federal budget battle 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) away, as automatic cuts are threatening to take away the star attraction for the Vidalia Onion Festival's popular air show: the Navy's daredevil fighter pilots, the Blue Angels. The \$85 billion in automatic budget cuts that took effect March 1 have thrown planning for the festival's air show into a tailspin, just weeks before the April 20 event that officials agreed

to hold a week earlier than usual so they could book the vaunted group. The Navy plans to cancel Blue Angels shows booked next month in Vidalia and three other cities. And there is a good chance dozens more air shows across the U.S. could get the ax as well, leaving host cities facing threats of lost tourism revenue and dwindling ticket sales. "It's going to hurt us," said Marsha Temples, chief organizer of the Vidalia air show, who estimates past festival weekends have drawn 15,000 extra people when the Blue Angels were on the bill. "People like to see the Blues because they put on an absolutely

phenomenal show. You have people who actually follow them and a lot of people come from out of town just to see them." While the Blue Angels' spring schedule is in doubt, the Air Force's formation-flying Thunderbirds and the Army's Golden Knights skydivers have canceled their performances outright. Combined, the three teams had booked more than 190 performances between the spring and fall. That's left many air show organizers scrambling to find replacements, such as civilian pilots with loud, fast jets from the Vietnam era or vintage planes from World War II. □

Maine lobster fishery certified as sustainable

CLARKE CANFIELD

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) —

An international organization has given its seal of approval to the Maine lobster fishery designating it as sustainable, Maine Gov. Paul LePage announced Sunday.

The London-based Marine Stewardship Council said the fishery meets its strict standards for responsible fishing practices. The announcement was made at the annual International Boston Seafood Show, with LePage surrounded by lobster fishermen, MSC representatives and others.

The MSC has been in the business of encouraging responsible fishing practices since 1997 and has now certified nearly 200 fisheries worldwide representing more than 10 percent of the global seafood harvest. Fisheries that make

the cut can use the MSC's ecolabel, a seal that assures consumers that the seafood was not overfished or harvested in a way that harms the ocean.

The designation allows the industry to market itself as sustainably run and to differentiate itself from the Canadian lobster fishery, said John Hathaway, president of Shucks Maine Lobster, a processing company in Richmond.

Surveys show that 80 percent of seafood buyers expect their seafood to come from sustainable resources, and retailers and restaurants are listening, Hathaway said. Wal-Mart has committed to buying only MSC-certified seafood, and McDonald's announced in January that all fish menu items at its 14,000 U.S. locations will carry the organization's ecolabel.

"We're very lucky to be in

the position today where Maine lobster is going to be ahead of the curve," Hathaway said by telephone from the Boston Seafood Show.

Maine fishermen catch lobsters in traps that are placed on the ocean bottom. With trap limits and rules that ban catching lobsters that are too small and too big, along with egg-bearing females, Maine's lobster fishery for years has been cited as a model. The new certification now makes it official.

The industry can use all the help it can get marketing its product. Maine lobstermen last year caught a record 126 million pounds (57 million kilograms) of lobster worth a record \$338 million, but they received an average of only \$2.69 per pound, the lowest price since 1994.

"This places greater em-



In this photo tweeted by Gov. Paul LePage, the Maine governor displays his concealed firearms permit, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013, in Augusta, Maine.

Associated Press

phasis on the need for effective marketing and highlights the unique marketing advantage a MSC certification provides," LePage said in a statement.

Kerry Coughlin, regional director for MSC, said Maine

has one of world's most famous and iconic fisheries.

"The Maine lobster fishery has operated for centuries and today's announcement indicates the fishery's commitment to be viable for centuries to come," she said. □

6 teens killed, 2 hurt in SUV crash



This Sunday, March 10, 2013 photo shows a Honda Passport that crashed into a guardrail and flipped over into a swampy pond Sunday morning in Warren, Ohio.

Associated Press

THOMAS J. SHEERAN

Associated Press

WARREN, Ohio (AP) —

A speeding sport utility vehicle taken without permission and carrying eight teenagers crashed into a guardrail, flipping over into a swampy pond, killing five boys and a woman, state police said.

The Honda Passport veered off the left side of a road Sunday morning and overturned near the city of Warren, about 60 miles (95 kilometers) east of Cleveland, Lt. Anne Ralston said. Inves-

tigators say it came to rest upside down in the swamp and sank with five of the victims trapped inside. A sixth, who was thrown from the SUV during the crash, was found under it when the vehicle was taken out of the water.

The two boys who survived escaped from the submerged vehicle and ran a quarter-mile to a home to call emergency services, the highway patrol said.

Highway Patrol Lt. Brian Holt said at an evening news conference that speed

was a factor, although investigators were still trying to determine the speed at the time of the accident.

"We will not be speculating on alcohol and-or drug usage pending toxicology reports," Holt said.

No one in the vehicle owned by a nearby resident had permission to take it, but there were no theft reports, Holt said.

Located near the Pennsylvania state line, Warren is a mostly blue-collar city that was hit by the decline of U.S. steel mills; it has more than 41,000 residents in the industrial Mahoning Valley region.

After the news conference, the gates of an impound lot were opened to show the wreck, with windows smashed and extensive damage to the front end, hood and roof.

Ralston didn't know where the teens were headed when the crash happened at about 7 a.m. and Holt said later it wasn't clear how long they had been out.

"All I know is my baby is gone," said Derrick Ray, who came to the crash site after viewing his 15-year-old son Daylan's body at the county morgue. He said he knew that his son, a talented football player who was looking forward to playing in high school, was out with friends, but didn't know their plans.

A pile of blue, green and copper-red stuffed bears grew at a makeshift memorial at the crash site along a two-lane road tightly bordered with guardrails on either side in an industrial area. The sport utility vehicle had sheared off tall cattails along the guardrail.

There were also notes at the memorial, including a letter from Daylan Ray's 12-year-old half-sister, Mariah Bryant, who said she had learned they were related only in the past year. "It hurts, it really does, because they are so young and, like, they could have had so much more to life," she said. "We just really

started getting close, and it's hard to believe he's gone."

Fire Department Capt. Bill Monrean said a cold water rescue team was deployed to the scene and got five teens out of the submerged vehicle.

"Being a cold water rescue situation, cold water extends life," Monrean told AP Radio.

"We knew we had a chance; even being in there a while."

Two of the teens, both 15, were brought to a hospital in full cardiac arrest. St. Joseph Health Center nursing supervisor Julie Gill said, and were pronounced dead there. She said they were treated for hypothermic drowning trauma, indicating they had been submerged in cold water.

The two who survived, 18-year-old Brian Henry and 15-year-old Asher Lewis were treated for bruising and other injuries and released, she said.

All those killed were ages 14 to 19, authorities said. □



Congress wants role as Obama pushes trade agenda

JIM ABRAMS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration has embarked on an aggressive trade agenda that could lower barriers and increase U.S. exports to many of the economic giants of Asia and Europe. To make that a reality, though, it may first have to negotiate future trade policy a little closer to home — with Congress.

The administration hopes to complete talks by October on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which would reduce duties on a wide range of goods and services in the world's most vibrant trading area. Eleven countries, including Australia, Peru, Malaysia, Vietnam, Mexico and Canada, are participating, and Japan has expressed interest in joining.

In his State of the Union address, President Barack Obama announced plans for a second deal, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, which would link the United States and the European Union, the world's two larg-



In this May 12, 2011 file photo, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., left, and the committee's ranking Republican Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, right, open a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

est economies.

Departing U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk added to the agenda in January when he notified Congress of plans to start negotiations for a new agreement on international trade in services. The talks will in-

clude a group of 20 trading partners representing nearly two-thirds of global trade in services. Obama has set a goal of doubling exports by the end of next year, after drawing criticism from free-trade advocates during

his first term for moving too slowly on trade issues.

"The Obama administration suddenly has this highly ambitious trade agenda that they've laid out," said John Murphy, vice president for international affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a leading pro-business lobbying group. "Now the challenge is going to be executing."

First, Obama must nominate a successor to Kirk, who in January announced plans to step down. Then, he has to work with lawmakers to restore a procedure called trade promotion authority that is regarded as key to getting trade treaties finalized and approved by Congress.

TPA, also known as "fast track," has a history going back to the 1930s and was formalized in a 1974 trade law. Under TPA, Congress and the White House agree on the objectives of trade negotiations, and

Congress affirms that it will vote on any trade treaty without offering amendments that would force the administration to go back to the negotiating table.

The last TPA law expired in 2007, and up to now, the Obama White House hasn't pushed for its renewal. Without TPA on the books, trade partners are reluctant to sign off on deals that could later be amended.

That could be fatal to some complex trade deals, such as the future talks with the EU where success hinges on reaching delicate compromises on such issues as European agriculture subsidies and Europe's restrictions on genetically engineered crops.

A strong trade agenda, said Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, the top Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, requires close cooperation and consultation with Congress, and "trade promotion authority is the linchpin that brings these elements together." Members of Obama's Democratic Party tend to oppose TPA, arguing that trade pacts negotiated by past administrations have resulted in job losses in America and given short shrift to environmental, labor and human rights issues. The last TPA law was passed in 2002 by the slimmest of margins, with House votes of 215-214 and 215-212. More than 300 labor and environmental groups, in a letter last week opposing the Trans-Pacific talks, said no TPA legislation should be considered without a thorough assessment of how a trade deal will affect job creation, environmental and labor rights, food sovereignty, access to medicine and other issues. □

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Calif. animal park reopens after fatal lion attack



This Wednesday, March 6, 2013 photo shows a sign posted near the gate near at the entrance of Cat Haven, the exotic animal park in central California where a 26-year old female volunteer intern was killed by a lion, in Dunlap, Calif.

Associated Press

DUNLAP, California (AP) — A California animal sanctuary where an African lion killed a 24-year-old intern reopened to the public Sunday with the support of the victim's family.

Cat Haven, a private zoo run by the nonprofit Project Survival, observed a moment of silence at noon for Dianna Hanson, who was fatally attacked by the 550-pound (250-kilogram) male lion Wednesday.

Cat Haven founder Dale Anderson said the park was returning to normal operations so the staff could focus on taking care of its remaining 29 wild cats, but "we continue to mourn the loss of two family members."

"Dianna would want the work that we are doing to continue and we are re-opening to the public with consent from Dianna's parents," Anderson said at Sunday's news conference. "Her passion for working with these animals was contagious."

Investigators believe the lion, known as Cous Cous, lifted the door of a partially closed feeding cage with its paw and attacked Hanson as she cleaned a larger enclosure area, according to Fresno County Coroner David Haden.

Hanson, who had been working as a Cat Haven

volunteer for two months, died immediately from a broken neck, according to the coroner's report.

A sheriff's deputy fatally shot the 5-year-old lion after it couldn't be coaxed away from Hanson's body. Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims did not provide many new details about the investigation at Sunday's news conference, but said the gate that was supposed to contain the lion was not completely closed.

"We believe this was an accident, an error," Mims said, according to the Fresno Bee.

Hanson's relatives say they also believe her death was an accident and that safety protocols were followed at Cat Haven, a 100-acre (40-hectare) park in the Sierra foothills about 40 miles (65 kilometers) east of Fresno.

Wendy Debbas, president of Project Survival, read a letter Sunday from Donna Anderson, the victim's mother, who said she supports the decision to re-open Cat Haven.

"I am living every mother's worst nightmare in losing a cherished child," Anderson said in the letter. "It is my desire that they continue their mission in support of saving my daughter's beloved creatures." □

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This Sunday, March 10, 2013 photo shows the charred remains of a home after a fire erupted, Saturday, March 9, 2013 in Gray, Ky, killing two adults and five children inside.

Associated Press

Uncle says he tried to save 7 from house fire

BEN FINLEY
Associated Press

GRAY, Kentucky (AP) — Gino Cima raced to a house as it was engulfed by flames in rural Kentucky, frantically trying to save his nephew, his nephew's pregnant fiancée and five young children inside. But he was too late: He found his nephew's body near a side door, laying in a way that suggested the man had been trying to rescue the sleeping children. Before coming upon his nephew's body and that of the man's fiancée, he said he screamed to firefighters: "There's babies in that house!" Cima said Sunday that he arrived within minutes of hearing of the Saturday morning blaze. "When I opened the screen door, she was laying at the door with her head to the door. And I pulled her out," he said, speaking softly. "And about 2 feet from her laying the other way was (my nephew). And I went in and got him and pulled him out. But they was done gone. There wasn't nothing I could do."

He said he then raced to the front of the house to try to save the children. "And that's when they had the five babies laying out in the front yard," he said. The Knox County coroner and state police have not yet identified the victims, but family members said the five children killed ranged in age from 10 months to 3 years. Relatives said the nephew's fiancée was the mother of three of the children who died. The other two children were siblings and friends of the family, visiting for the night for a sleepover, the relatives said. Officials said the cause of the fire was under investigation. Arson investigators were at the scene Saturday, but officials said no foul play was suspected. State police said Sunday that no more information on the fire would be released until Monday. Laura Cima, Gino's wife, said they owned the single-story, wood-frame house that the couple was renting. □

NYC Council speaker launches mayoral bid

JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — A veteran of New York City politics formally launched Sunday what she hopes will be a history-making mayoral bid: She would be the first female and first openly gay mayor to lead the largest U.S. city.

Democratic City Council Speaker Christine Quinn announced through her Twitter feed that she's in the race, saying she wanted to give middle- and working-class New Yorkers the same opportunities generations of her family got when they came to New York.

"I'm running for mayor because I love this city. It's the greatest place in the world," Quinn said in a video linked to her post, before starting what she called a walk-and-talk tour intended to take her to every neighborhood in the city before the Democratic primary in September. A former tenant organizer and director of a gay and lesbian advocacy group, Quinn, 46, has been on the City Council since 1999 and its leader since 2006. The position has afforded her considerable exposure going into the crowded field of candidates vying to succeed term-limited Mayor Michael Bloomberg. She's enjoyed a considerable edge over other Democratic contenders in polls. A Quinnipiac University poll late last month gave her 37 percent of the Democratic vote, while her opponents each got less than 15 percent. Registered Democrats outnumber Republicans more than 6 to 1 in



Surrounded by family and supporters, New York City Council speaker and mayoral hopeful Christine Quinn, center, speaks to the media as she announces her mayoral run in New York, Sunday, March 10, 2013.

Associated Press

the city, though that hasn't translated into Democratic success in a mayor's race since 1989. Quinn has generally been perceived as likely to get the Republican-turned-independent Bloomberg's backing, and with it support from business leaders. Some of her Democratic opponents have tried to use that against her, suggesting Quinn is too close to a mayor they say has sometimes turned a cold shoulder to the concerns of middle-class and working-class New Yorkers. Opponents have faulted her, for example, for joining Bloomberg in opposing a plan to require businesses with at least five employees to provide paid sick leave. Quinn has said it's a worthy goal, but now is not the economic time to do it. She also has taken heat for helping Bloomberg get the

council to agree to extend term limits so he could run for a third time in 2008, without asking the voters who had approved a two-term limit twice in the 1990s. In office, Quinn leads 50 other council members and largely controls what proposals come to a vote. Her announced and likely Democratic opponents include former City Councilman Sal Albanese; Public Advocate Bill de Blasio; Comptroller John Liu, who would be the city's first Asian-American mayor; and former Comptroller Bill Thompson. Republican contenders include former Metropolitan Transportation Authority Chairman Joseph Lhota; Tom Allon, a publisher; billionaire businessman John Catsimatidis; and George McDonald, the head of a nonprofit that helps the homeless. □

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conclave

Continued from front

This time there are no star cardinals and no big favorites, making the election wide open and allowing the possibility of a compromise candidate should there be deadlock.

While deliberations have been secret, there appear to be two big camps forming that have been at loggerheads in the run-up to the conclave.

One, dominated by the powerful Vatican bureaucracy called the Curia, is believed to be seeking a pope who will let it continue calling the shots as usual. The speculation is that the Curia is pushing the candidacy of Brazilian Odilo Scherer, who has close ties to the Curia and would be expected to name an Italian insider as Secretary of State — the Vatican No. 2 who runs day-to-day affairs at the Holy See.

Another camp, apparently spearheaded by American cardinals, is said to be pushing for a reform-minded pope with the strength to shake up the Curia, tarnished by infighting and the "Vatileaks" scandal in which retired Pope Benedict XVI's own butler leaked confidential documents to a journalist. These cardinals reportedly want Milan archbishop Angelo Scola as pope, as he is seen as having the clout to bring the Curia into line. The other key question to resolve is whether the pope should be a "pastoral" one — somebody with the charisma and communication skills to attract new members to a dwindling flock — or a "managerial" one capable of a church overhaul in a time of sex-abuse scandals and

bureaucratic disarray.

It's hard to find any single candidate who fits the bill on both counts.

Italy has the largest group of cardinal electors with 28, and believes it has a historic right to supply the pope, as it did for centuries. Italians feel it's time to have one of their own enthroned again after 35 years of "foreigners," with the Polish John Paul II and the German Benedict.

But Italians are divided by which Italian church groups they have been affiliated with, and which leaders they follow. A dispute that pitted the followers of the archbishops of Genoa and Florence is said to have cost them the papacy in 1978 after 455 years of Italian popes.

Andrea Riccardi, a founder of the Sant Egidio community and minister of cooperation in the Italian government, says Italian cardinals should get the first look.

"The pope is bishop of Rome," Riccardi said. "Only if the selection of an Italian becomes impractical should it be the case to look in another direction." From one point of view, the Italians have already suffered a setback. The selection of Tuesday for the conclave to begin is considered a victory for the "foreigners" who had sought more time to get to know get to know one another amid pressures to begin voting as early as Sunday. And the leading Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera, which polled experts on Saturday, found Boston Cardinal Sean O'Malley topped their list of papal favorites — ahead of both Scherer and Scola.

Two other Americans — Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York and Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington — also emerged as po-

tential popes in the survey. That was a surprise since Americans had largely been written off because of potential negative perceptions of electing a superpower pope. Vatican watchers have also noted that an American pope would likely have difficulty dealing with anti-Christian violence and persecution in the Islamic world.

But there are 11 American cardinal-electors, second in number only to the Italians, and they are being talked up for their perceived managerial skills. The American reputation may have been boosted by the Vatican's decision to silence their daily pre-conclave news conferences. □



Cardinal Odilo Pedro Scherer arrives to celebrate mass in the Sant' Andrea al Quirinale church, in Rome, Sunday March 10, 2013. Cardinals from around the world gather this week in a conclave to elect a new pope following the stunning resignation of Benedict XVI.

Associated Press

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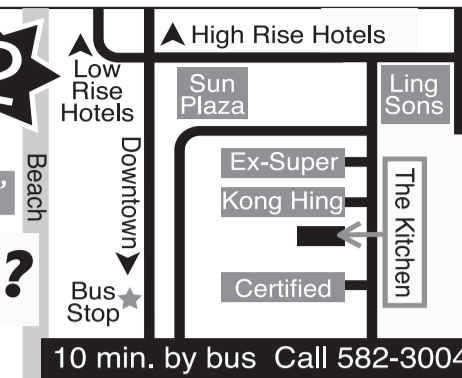
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U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel listens to the press following his meeting with Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, March 10, 2013. It is Hagel's first official trip since being sworn-in as Obama's Defense Secretary.
Associated Press

Security risks, frayed relations dog U.S., Afghans

LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press
KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— A series of security problems and fractured relations with Afghan leaders plagued Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's first trip here as Pentagon chief, including the Afghan president's accusations that the U.S. and the Taliban are working in concert to show that violence in the country will worsen if most coalition troops leave.

The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Joseph Dunford, quickly rejected the charges President Hamid Karzai made Sunday as "categorically false." But the accusations were just the latest in a series of disputes that have frayed relations between the two nations as the U.S. works to wind down the war and turn the country's security over to the Afghans.

Speaking to reporters shortly after Karzai made the comments, Dunford said the Afghan leader has never expressed such views to him but said it was understandable that tensions would arise as the coalition balances the need to complete its mission with the Afghans' move to exercise more sovereignty.

"We have fought too hard over the past 12 years, we have shed too much blood over the past 12 years, we have done too much to help the Afghan security forces grow over the last 12 years to ever think that violence or instability would be to our advantage," said Dunford.

Dunford's comments came, however, soon after U.S. officials cancelled a news conference with Hagel and Karzai because of

a security threat — just a day after a suicide bomber on a bicycle struck outside the Afghan Defense Ministry, killing nine Afghan civilians and wounding 14 others. Hagel heard the explosion from the safe location where he was meeting with Afghan officials but was never in danger.

The security problems compounded a series of flare-ups in recent weeks, including a dispute that has stalled the transfer of a U.S. prison to Afghan authority as well as Karzai's order to expel U.S. special operations forces out of Wardak province, which lies just outside the capital, because of allegations that Afghans working with the commandos were involved in abusive behavior. Hagel met with Karzai Sunday night and said that he discussed all the key issues with the president. He also rejected any suggestions that the U.S. is in collusion with the Taliban. Speaking to reporters traveling with him, Hagel declined to detail his conversation with Karzai but said, "I think he understands where we are and where we've been, and hopefully where we're going together."

Hagel said he's known Karzai since shortly after the invasion in late 2001, adding that such extended relationships can often be beneficial, especially when dealing with complicated issues.

The U.S. and Afghan leaders are in the midst of negotiations over the long-term presence of American forces in Afghanistan beyond the end of 2014, when all combat troops are scheduled to leave. U.S. officials would not pro-

vide details on the security concerns that led to cancelling the news conference. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the matter publicly. But Pentagon press secretary George Little said the cancellation was not due to Karzai's earlier comments about the U.S. and the Taliban.

During a nationally televised speech, Karzai said two suicide bombings that killed 19 people on Saturday — the one outside the Afghan Defense Ministry and the other near a police checkpoint in eastern Khost province — show the insurgent group is conducting attacks to help show that international forces will still be needed to keep the peace after their current combat mission ends in 2014.

"The explosions in Kabul and Khost yesterday showed that they are at the service of America and at the service of this phrase: 2014. They are trying to frighten us into thinking that if the foreigners are not in Afghanistan, we would be facing these sorts of incidents," he said during the speech about the state of Afghan women.

Karzai is known for making incendiary comments in his public speeches. And Dunford on Sunday said that some of the recent disputes between the U.S.-led coalition and Afghan leaders "strike at the heart of sovereignty" and could be more political in nature. He said Karzai may be doing what he needs to do to communicate with the Afghan people and their political leaders outside the government. □

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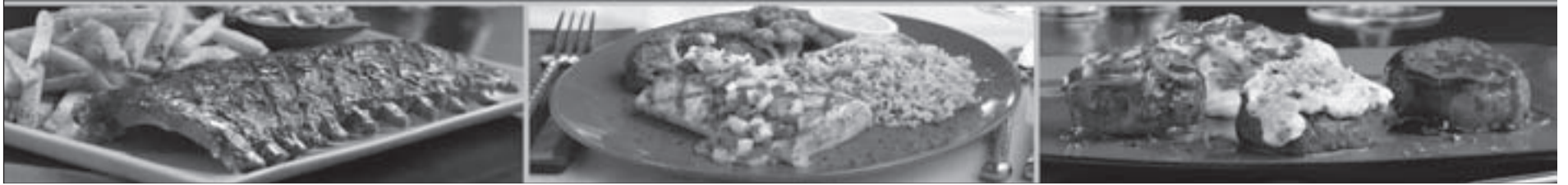
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India police stop immolation bid by Tibetan exile

ASHWINI BHATIA

Associated Press

DHARMSALA, India (AP) —

Police in India prevented a Tibetan man from setting himself on fire as hundreds of Tibetan exiles gathered Sunday to mark the anniversary of a failed 1959 uprising against Chinese rule, officials said.

Dawa Dhondup, 30, was marching with hundreds of Tibetan exiles through the streets of Dharmsala, the home of Tibet's government-in-exile, when he consumed and poured gasoline over himself, police constable Sanjeev Kumar said.

Police stopped him from setting himself on fire and took him to a hospital.

Every year, Tibetan exiles in India mark the anniversary of the failed March 10, 1959, uprising with speeches and marches.

China maintains that Tibet has been part of its territory for centuries, but many Ti-

betans say the region was functionally independent for much of its history.

More than 100 self-immolations have been reported in Tibetan areas of the Chinese provinces of Sichuan, Qinghai and Gansu since 2009, with the protesters calling for the return of the Dalai Lama, the Tibetans' spiritual leader.

A Tibetan exile in Nepal self-immolated last month, and another did so last year in New Delhi, India's capital.

Beijing has accused the Dalai Lama of inciting the self-immolations, a charge the religious leader denies.

The Dalai Lama also denies China's charge that he is pushing for Tibet's independence, saying that he only wants China to grant Tibetans cultural and religious freedoms.

He has been living in the northern Indian town of Dharmsala since he fled



Tibetan Dawa Dhondup, 30, reacts at the zonal hospital in Dharmsala, India, on the anniversary of a failed 1959 uprising against Chinese rule, after his attempt to set himself on fire was aborted on Sunday, March 10, 2013.

Associated Press

Tibet 50 years ago when Chinese troops marched in.

"We dedicate this day to all the self-immolators and

those who have died for Tibet," Lobsang Sangay, the prime minister of the government-in-exile, told a gathering of hundreds of

exiles in Dharmsala on Sunday.

Sangay said the "repression" in Tibet was driving Tibetans to the self-immolations.

Hundreds of Tibetan exiles also gathered in New Delhi to protest against Chinese repression. Many wore T-shirts with images of the Dalai Lama, while others carried Tibetan flags.

In the Belgian capital of Brussels, nearly 5,000 Tibetans from around Europe marched to press the European Union to help with the Tibet issue, urging the EU to appoint a fact-finding mission and open a dialogue with Beijing.

"Don't wait. As quick as possible we need you to support us very, very urgently," said Kasang Lhammo, a Briton who was born in Tibet.

Another British Tibetan, Ztenzin Dunsel, described the marchers as "the voice of the Tibetan people who have died." □

900 dead pigs found floating in Shanghai river



In this photo taken Thursday March 7, 2013 and made available Sunday, March 10, 2013, dead pigs are strewn along the riverbanks of Songjiang district in Shanghai, China.

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese officials say they have fished out 900 dead pigs from a Shanghai river that is a water source for city residents. Officials are investigating where the pigs came from. A statement posted Saturday on the city's Agriculture Committee's website says they haven't found any evidence that the pigs were dumped into the river or of any animal epidemic. The statement says the city and Songjiang district governments started retrieving the pigs on Friday night. By late Saturday afternoon they had recovered and disposed of more than 900. The statement says the water and environmental protection bureaus are ramping up monitoring of the river's water quality. □



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Venezuelan opposition leader to run for president

VIVIAN SEQUERA

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuelan opposition leader Henrique Capriles announced Sunday night that he will run in elections to replace Hugo Chavez, setting up a make-or-break encounter against the late president's hand-picked successor.

Capriles slammed the government in his announcement for using Chavez's death to push the candidacy of Nicolas Maduro, who was sworn in as acting leader Friday. He also called top military brass an "embarrassment" for publicly supporting Maduro, although the constitution forbids the military from taking political sides.

"Don't fool yourselves that you're the good and we're the bad," the 40-year-old candidate said to the government. "No, you're no better than us. I don't play with death. I don't play with pain."

Capriles, who is governor of Venezuela's biggest state, also acknowledged that he faces tough odds against an official candidate in control of vast public resources who he said has the backing of the country's electoral commission.

"As one person said today, 'Capriles, they are taking you to a slaughterhouse. Are you going to be low-



Opposition leader Henrique Capriles holds up a miniature copy of Venezuela's Constitution as he speaks during a press conference in Caracas, Venezuela, Friday, March 8, 2013.
Associated Press

ered into its meat grinder?" Capriles said.

He said, however, that he had to fight for the whole country.

"How am I not going to fight?" he said. "How are we not going to fight? This is not Capriles' fight. This is everybody's fight."

In some districts of the capital, people launched fireworks, shouted and honked horns as Capriles announced he would run. Capriles also laid out what could be main themes of his campaign, bemoaning high crime and poverty as well as the government's

decision to devalue the currency by more than 30 percent.

National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello sent a response on his Twitter account: "Capriles, you messed with Chavez and with the profound love that the people feel for the Commander of the Fatherland, you made a declaration of war."

Venezuela's election commission has set the vote for April 14, with formal campaigning to start just 12 days earlier.

Maduro has already announced his intention to run as the candidate of Chavez's socialist party. On Sunday he also picked up the support of Venezuela's small communist party. He's expected to file election papers on Monday. In a speech accepting the communist party's nomination, Maduro insisted he was running for president out of loyalty to Chavez, not vanity or personal am-

gence, charisma, historical force, or capacity to lead.

... But I am a Chavista and I live and die for him."

Opposition critics have called Maduro's ascension unconstitutional, noting the charter designates the National Assembly president as acting leader if a president-elect cannot be sworn in.

Capriles faced a stark choice in deciding whether to compete in the vote, which most analysts say he is sure to lose amid a frenzy of sympathy and mourning for the dead president.

Some say a second defeat for Capriles just six months after he lost last year's presidential vote to Chavez could derail his political career. But staying on the sidelines would have put in jeopardy his leadership of the opposition.

Analysts predict the next five weeks will see a spike in the nasty, heated rhetoric that began even before Chavez's death Tuesday after a nearly two-year fight with cancer. □

Mexican marines free dozens of kidnapped migrants

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican marines have freed 104 kidnapped Central American migrants who were being held in a house in the border city of Nuevo Laredo, authorities said Sunday.

A statement from the Secretary of the Marines said the 102 Hondurans and two Salvadorans, including 13 women, had been held captive for four days.

It said the rescue operation came after authorities received a tip that vehicles were seen arriving at the house in Tamaulipas state

and armed men were then seen violently unloading people from them.

The statement didn't say if the migrants were trying to cross Mexico in hopes of reaching the United States, but it is common for Central American migrants trying to reach the U.S. to be kidnapped and ransoms demanded from their families.

According to Mexico's National Human Rights Commission, each year about 150,000 migrants, mostly Central Americans, cross Mexico trying to reach the United States. □

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Hostage killings a new, dangerous turn for Nigeria

JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

KANO, Nigeria (AP) — Radical Islamic fighters killed seven foreign hostages in Nigeria, European diplomats said Sunday, making it the worst such kidnapping violence in decades for a country beset by extremist guerrilla attacks. Nigeria's police, military, domestic spy service and presidency remained silent over the killings of the construction company workers, kidnapped Feb. 16 from northern Bauchi state. The government's silence only led to more questions about the nation's continued inability to halt attacks that have seen hundreds killed in shootings, church bombings and an attack on the United Nations. The latest victims were four Lebanese and one citizen apiece from Britain, Greece and Italy. Britain and Italy said all seven of those taken from the Setrapo construction company compound had died at the hands of Ansaru, a previously little-known splinter group of the Islamic sect Boko Haram. Greece also confirmed one of its citizens was killed, while Lebanese authorities didn't immediately comment. "It's an atrocious act of terrorism, against which the Italian government expresses its firmest condemnation, and which has no explanation, if not that of barbarous and blind violence," a statement from Italy's foreign ministry read. Italy also flatly denied a claim by Ansaru that the hostages were killed before or during a military operation by Nigerian and British forces, saying there was "no military intervention aimed at freeing the hostages."

Italian Premier Mario Monti

identified the slain Italian hostage as Silvano Trevisan and promised Rome would use "every effort" to stop the killers. British Foreign Secretary William Hague called the killings "an act of cold-blooded murder" and identified the U.K. victim as Brendan Vaughan. A statement from Greece's foreign ministry said authorities had already informed the hostage's family. "We note that the terrorists never communicated or formulated demands to release the hostages," the statement read, which also denied any military raid took place. Ansaru issued a short statement Saturday saying its fighters kidnapped the foreigners from the construction company's camp at Jama'are, a town about 200 kilometers (125 miles) north of Bauchi, the capital of Bauchi state. In the attack, gunmen first assaulted a local prison and burned police trucks, authorities said. Then the attackers blew up a back fence at the construction company's compound and took over, killing a guard in the process, witnesses and police said. Local officials in Nigeria initially identified one of the hostages as a Filipino, something the Philippines government later denied. The gunmen appeared to be organized and knew who they wanted to target, leaving the Nigerian household staff at the residence unharmed, while quickly abducting the foreigners, a witness said. In an online statement Saturday claiming the killings, Ansaru said it killed the hostages in part because of local Nigerian journalists reporting on the arrival of British military aircraft to Bauchi. However, Ansaru's statement cited local news



A man reads a local newspaper with the headline 'We've killed 7 foreign hostages' on a street in Kano, Nigeria, Sunday, March. 10, 2013. Associated Press

articles that instead said the airplanes were spotted at the international airport in Abuja, the nation's central capital about 180 miles (290 kilometers) southwest. The U.K. Defense Ministry said Sunday the planes it flew to Abuja ferried Nigerian troops and equipment to Bamako, Mali. Nigerian soldiers have been sent to Mali to help French forces and Malian troops battle Islamic extremists there. The British military said it also transported Ghanaian soldiers to Mali the same way. The ministry declined to comment further. Ansaru had said it believed the planes were part of a Nigerian and British rescue mission for the abducted hostages. The U.K. has offered military support in the past in Nigeria to free hostages. In March 2012, its special forces backed a failed Nigerian military raid to free Christopher McManus, who had been abducted months earlier with Italian Franco Lamolinara from a home in Kebbi state. Both hostages were killed in that rescue attempt.

"I am grateful to the Nigerian government for their unstinting help and co-operation," Hague said in

a statement, without addressing the claim that the U.K. had launched a rescue effort. □

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Tens of thousands in Spain anti-austerity protest

HAROLD HECKLE
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Tens of thousands of demonstrators marched in dozens of Spanish cities on Sunday to protest sky-high unemployment, what they say is the government's inefficient handling of the economy and corruption scandals. Many protesters carried placards critical of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's ruling Popular Party, which is immersed in a corruption investigation centered on former treasurer Luis Barcenas and alleged under-the-table payments to party officials while in opposition. King Juan Carlos' son-in-law, Inaki Urdangarin, is also under investigation on suspicion of having em-



A man carries a cardboard of an envelope reading "Supplementary Wage" simulating the alleged corruption of Spanish Popular Party, during a protest against against austerity in Pamplona northern Spain on Sunday, March 10, 2013.

Associated Press

bezzled several million dollars. Rallies were organized in Madrid and 60 other cities by 150 organizations including trade unions representing the construction,

car and television industries as well as police and health services.

Police estimated some 20,000 people marched in the northeastern port city

of Barcelona, but authorities did not have figures for a large rally held in Madrid. Unemployed protester Javier Alonso, 55, said the government's labor reform policies were destroying employment while not easing the country's slide into recession. "All they have achieved is to give employers greater facilities to fire workers and us 50-year-olds have been rewarded with cheap dismissals which have simply dumped us on the streets," Alonso said. Spain's unemployment rate is at a staggering 26 percent and the economy is immersed in its second recession in three years, with many young graduates and qualified professionals emigrating to

find jobs elsewhere.

Health care worker Isabel Montanes said she was protesting because the cuts were badly affecting those worst off in Spain's society. "They want to cut what most sustains a country, which is education and health care," she said.

"The unemployment rate is so immense that young people believe they have no future here, and we are embittering their existence," Montanes said.

General Workers Union spokesman Candido Mendez said it was clear most people rejected the government's austerity policies, which he said were pushing many toward poverty and away from democracy. □

Germany: Fire at apartment building kills 8

BERLIN (AP) — A fire broke out early Sunday at an apartment building in southwestern Germany, killing eight people — a woman and seven of her children, authorities said. Three more people were rescued from the blazing building in Backnang, a town near Stuttgart, among them the children's grandmother. The family was of Turkish origin, and Turkey's ambassador to

Germany headed to the scene.

Authorities were alerted to the blaze at 4:30 a.m. (0330 GMT). Once it had been brought under control, firefighters found the bodies of the 40-year-old woman and seven of her 10 children, aged between 6 months and 16, in two rooms of their second-floor apartment. The victims' names were not released. Police and prosecutors

said the fire almost certainly broke out in the apartment. They said in a statement that a heater was a focus of investigations, but another technical cause also was possible, and it could take days or weeks to pinpoint with certainty what started the blaze.

A German-Turkish cultural association has an office on the building's ground floor. Police said there was no indication that the fire

might have been set deliberately or been a racist attack.

The building is part of a former leather factory that was converted into a row of three-story apartment blocks. □

Firefighters look out of the window of a house in Backnang, Germany, Sunday March 10, 2013. An early-morning fire on Sunday at the apartment building in southwestern Germany left seven people dead, six of them children, police said. **Associated Press**



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Reginald de PALM (a.k.a. Quake). Born in Aruba, lived in Curacao and Bonaire. He is not your usual suspect. His works makes the common look different. And turns the natural into something absurd. He started drawing very young and was immediately fascinated with the fact that he could give a flat piece of paper, artificial dimensions. Yet similar to other local artists, a flavor of Aruba is always present.

Besides painting he also writes lyrics to songs and poems. To be able to create something new is always his goal. In the second half of 2010 he started using acrylic for the first time, participating in the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival on Aruba and won the "People's choice Award". In 2011 he had the privilege to give one of his paintings to the Queen of the Dutch Kingdom, as a gift. As a rookie in the art world, his paintings are standing out in the art crowd and are already placed next to the best names on the Island. The artist, Quake, under the encouragement of Timothy Charles and Elvis Tromp, decided to take his art to the public in his first solo expo "Unlimited Edition", giving the crowd something different to enjoy !!

Beauty On The Beach

Anna Maria Carusone

She is from Casurta, a town close to Napoli, in Italy. It is her first time in Aruba and she is on her honeymoon.



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to budget, thereby helping clients and future clients understand how they should make conscious decisions, balancing their personal finances. Aruba Bank's Mortgage

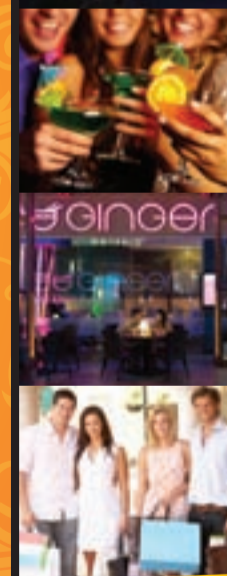
Seminar will take place at the Renaissance Convention Center on Saturday, March 23rd, from 9am to 11am. The seminar is completely free on charge. Mark your calendars and

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A champ at 48, Bernard Hopkins could keep fighting



Bernard Hopkins and Tavoris Cloud fight during the fourth round of an IBF Light Heavyweight championship boxing match at the Barclays Center Saturday, March 9, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

DAN GELSTON
AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Bernard Hopkins has another belt around his waist and a slice of boxing history to his name. He just might not have another bout.

The oldest boxer to win a major title, the 48-year-old Hopkins said he could retire a champion if he's no longer inspired and the right bout doesn't materialize.

"If I'm not motivated, and the competition is not there, if it's a meaningless fight, it's time to roll, man," Hopkins said by phone Sunday.

Hopkins scored a 12-round unanimous decision over Tavoris Cloud to claim the IBF light heavyweight championship Saturday night. Hopkins became the oldest boxer to win a major title, extending the record he set by beating Jean Pascal for the WBC light heavyweight title on May 21, 2011.

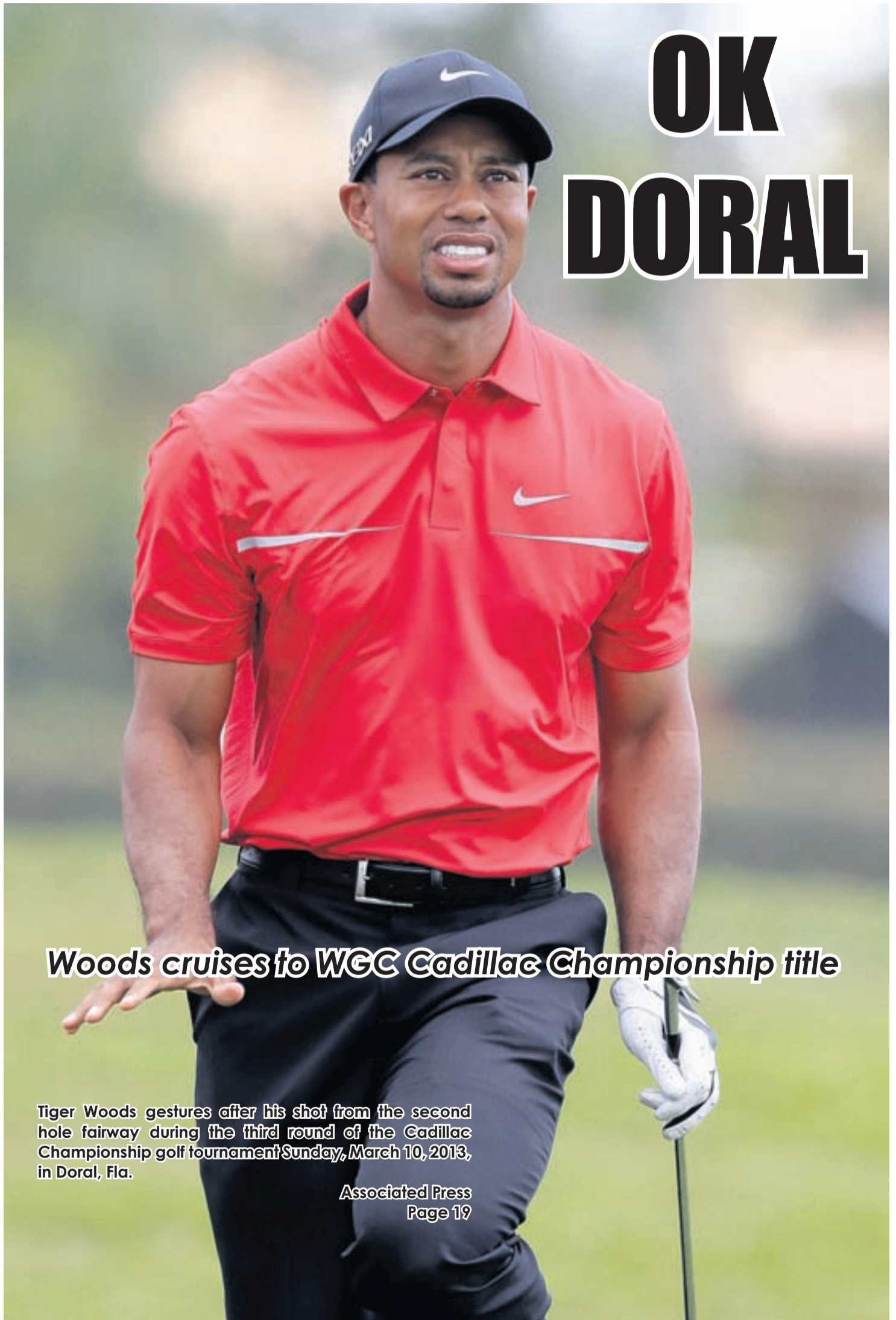
Continued on Page 21

OK DORAL

Woods cruises to WGC Cadillac Championship title

Tiger Woods gestures after his shot from the second hole fairway during the third round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 10, 2013, in Doral, Fla.

Associated Press
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United States' Adam Jones (10) celebrates his run scored against Canada with teammate Jimmy Rollins (11) in the eighth inning of a World Baseball Classic baseball game on Sunday, March 10, 2013, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

Jones, Hosmer lead U.S. past Canada, move up in WBC

BOB BAUM
AP Sports Writer
PHOENIX (AP) — Adam Jones doubled in the tying and go-ahead runs in the eighth inning and Eric Hosmer hit a three-run double in the ninth as the United States beat Canada 9-4 on Sunday to advance to the second round of the World Baseball Classic. The U.S. trailed 3-2 after seven innings before breaking loose. Team USA and Italy advanced in Group D while Canada and Mexico were eliminated. Jones and Hosmer both had a rough week at the plate but came through with the United States on

the brink of what would have been a humbling loss. Jones' hit was his second in nine at-bats. Hosmer was 3 for 13. Second baseman Brandon Phillips contributed, too, making a diving stop to prevent Canada from tying it in the eighth. Heath Bell pitched a scoreless seventh to get the victory for manager Joe Torre's team. Jimmy Henderson took the loss. Canada's Michael Saunders, of the Seattle Mariners, hit a two-run homer off starter Derek Holland and was chosen the Group D MVP, going 8 for 11 in the tournament. The United States finished group play tied with Italy at 2-1 but gets the No. 1 seed because of its 6-2 win over Italy. The U.S. meets the loser of Sunday's Dominican Republic-Puerto Rico game Tuesday in Miami. David Wright, whose grand slam lifted the U.S. past Italy Saturday night, doubled and walked three times. Ben Zobrist had three hits, none of which left the infield. Canada, coming off a 10-3 win over Mexico that featured a bruising ninth-inning brawl, finished 1-2. The Canadians have not made it out of the first round for any of the three WBCs. But they looked in great shape much of the afternoon against the United States, which was looking to avoid its worst showing ever in the tournament. The Americans made it to the second round in 2006 and the semifinals in 2009. For the third straight game, the U.S. fell behind early. Justin Morneau, who was 8 for 12 in the tournament for Canada, doubled to start the second, then Saunders hit Holland's 1-0 pitch into the bullpen down the right field line to make it 2-0. The U.S. tied it with two runs in the fourth, one unearned. Joe Mauer led off with a single and Wright walked.

Zobrist put down a near-perfect bunt for a base hit, with third baseman Taylor Green throwing wildly to first and allowing a run to score. Jones' sacrifice fly to center brought in the tying run. Green, playing third for Canada because Brett Lawrie was hurt just before the WBC began, also had an error in the second when he dropped Zobrist's high pop fly ball in the bright sunlight. Canada regained the lead at 3-2 in the sixth. Joey Votto drew a leadoff walk from reliever Glen Perkins, took second on Morneau's single. Saunders struck out looking and Chris Robinson flied out, advancing the runner to third. Adam Loewen's first-pitch single brought Votto home. Mauer opened the eighth with a single, then Wright walked. Torre made an aggressive move when, with Willie Bloomquist pinch running for Mauer, he sent both runners moving on Henderson's 1-2 pitch to Jones. Jones connected, bringing both runners home. Shane Victorino singled Jones home to make it 5-3. Canada made it a one-run game in its half of the eighth but would have tied it had it not been for a spectacular defensive play by Phillips. His diving stop of Loewen's bases-loaded grounder allowed one run to score, but kept the U.S. in the lead. The U.S. broke it open off Scott Matheson and closer John Axford in the ninth. Phillips started it with a double. Jonathan Lucroy had an RBI single, then Wright walked once again. Axford came on and allowed the infield single to Zobrist. Jones struck out but Hosmer, a late addition to the team when Matt Teixeira was injured, cleared the bases with a shot to deep center. Torre benched Miami's dynamic young slugger Giancarlo Stanton in favor of Victorino in left field. □

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Matt Kenseth holds off Kahne to win in Vegas

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) -- Matt Kenseth won on his 41st birthday for his new Joe Gibbs Racing team, barely holding off Kasey Kahne for his third victory at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on Sunday.

Kenseth earned his 25th career victory in just his third start in the JGR Toyota after leaving Roush Fenway Racing in the off-season. He took the lead away from Kahne out of a late restart and fended off Kahne's Chevrolet over the final laps, adding another trophy to his Las Vegas victories in 2003 and 2004.

"I was real nervous all day," Kenseth said. "(Kahne) had the best car. I told (crew chief) Jason (Ratliff) with about 12 to go that I was sorry we were going to lose. We were just too tight. ... We didn't have the fastest car there, but we had it where we needed it to be." Pole sitter Brad Keselowski finished third, with hometown driver Kyle Busch in fourth and Carl Edwards fifth. Jimmie Johnson, the overall points leader, was sixth and Dale Earnhardt Jr. seventh.

Defending Vegas champion Tony Stewart finished 11th, while Denny Hamlin was 15th. Kenseth is just the third NASCAR driver to win on his birthday, joining Cale Yarborough - who did it twice - and Busch. His win was the 50th for Toyota in Sprint Cup Series competition. Kenseth has won at least one race in 11 of his 14 full seasons in the Sprint Cup series, but the first 13 were all in Fords with Roush Fenway, the team that gave him his break in NASCAR and fostered his development into a likely Hall of Famer. Kenseth's decision to leave for a seat on Gibbs' team was an open secret for much of last season, although the veteran star never really explained his move.

The 400-mile race was the first real test for NASCAR's new Gen-6 car on the intermediate tracks they're built to race. Although

Hamlin commanded the week's headlines when his pessimism about the car drew a stiff \$25,000 fine from NASCAR, most drivers were curious how the Gen-6 would work in its ideal 1.5-mile environment.

Any drivers who still think it's too tough to pass in the new car must not have been watching Busch, who made two lengthy charges up to early leads, doing it both before and after a pit-row speeding penalty dropped him back to 18th. Busch charged through the field with impressive ease and took the lead out of a restart with a daredevil move on the apron with 102 laps to go. He went three wide and got underneath Kahne while kicking up dust well below the white line.

Kahne set the qualifying speed record on the Vegas track last year, but rain wiped out qualifying this week. He reclaimed the lead and held it until Kenseth nosed ahead out of another restart with 36 laps left when Kahne had trouble getting out of pit row, nearly hitting Stewart.

"I had an unbelievable car throughout the whole race," Kahne said. "We just came out, I think, sixth (out of the pit). Tough to say we would have got by him anyway. "I had a great day. I drove so hard every single lap today, and that's just the new Gen-6 car. It was a lot of fun. I love it."

The Gen-6 is still a work in progress, however. Several drivers reported various problems with their cars early on, with Clint Bowyer and Stewart both dropping far back in the opening laps. After three days of chilly weather in the desert, warmer temperatures Sunday changed the track's feel, and teams struggled to adjust to the slickness.

Danica Patrick, the pole winner two weeks ago at Daytona, struggled with her car from the start, going two laps down by the 60th lap and later getting penalized for a tire violation. She finished 33rd. □



Driver Matt Kenseth holds up the trophy as he celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race, Sunday, March 10, 2013 in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

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Woods wins another World Championship at Doral

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

DORAL, Florida (AP) — Tiger Woods is hitting his stride on a march to the Masters.

Woods had full control of his game Sunday and never let anyone get closer than three shots until he had locked up his 17th World Golf Championship title. With a conservative bogey that didn't matter on the final hole, he closed with a 1-under 71 to win the Cadillac Championship.

For the first time in five years, Woods has two wins before the Masters.

It was one year ago at Doral that Woods withdrew after 11 holes in the final round because of tightness in his left Achilles tendon, creating uncertainty about his health and whether he could ever get his game back.

False alarm.

Woods has won five times in the last year, the most of anyone in the world, and he can return to No. 1 with a win at Bay Hill in two weeks.

He won by two shots over Steve Stricker, who might want to claim a share of this trophy.

Stricker spent 45 minutes on the putting green with Woods on the eve of the tournament, helping him



Tiger Woods holds the Gene Sarazen Cup for winning the Cadillac Championship golf tournament on Sunday, March 10, 2013, in Doral, Fla.

Associated Press

with his posture over putts. Woods made 27 birdies this week, one short of his personal best on the PGA Tour. "Thank you to Steve for the putting lesson," Woods said at the trophy presentation. "It was one of those weeks where I felt pretty good about how I was playing, made a few putts and got

it rolling."

Stricker, playing a part-time schedule, picked up his second runner-up finish in just three starts. He closed with a 68, and had no regrets about offering Woods some help.

"At times you kick yourself," Stricker said with a laugh. "He's a good friend.

We talk a lot about putting. It's good to see him playing well."

The Masters is a month away, and Woods is sure to be the favorite.

Rory McIlroy, the No. 1 player in the world, showed signs of recovering from his rough start to the season. He had a 65 and tied for eighth.

Woods won in January at Torrey Pines by four shots. He won for the fourth time at Doral, making this the seventh golf course where he has won at least four times.

Graeme McDowell, who started the final round four shots behind, made a birdie on the opening hole, but never got any closer. McDowell had third place to himself until he went for the green on the 18th hole and found the water. He made double bogey, shot 72 and fell into a four-way tie for third that cost him \$172,500.

Phil Mickelson (71), Sergio Garcia (69) and Adam Scott (64) also tied for third. Woods improved to 40-2 on the PGA Tour when he had the outright lead going into the final round, the last two wins with McDowell at his side. Woods last won while ahead at Bay Hill a year ago.

"The way Tiger was playing, I was always in chase mode," McDowell said.

"He was always going to be a tough guy to catch. Fair play to him. He played fantastic golf the last couple of days."

Woods finished minus 19 at 269 and earned \$1.5 million in winning this World Golf Championship for the seventh time.

McIlroy's week ended on a happy note.

Not only did he finish the tournament, he might have turned the corner with a bogey-free 65. McIlroy opened with a 7-iron into 18 feet for eagle, which he called one of the best shots he hit.

He shot a 32 on the back nine for a round that surprised him considering how far away he felt when he arrived at Doral.

"Just goes to show, it's not as far away as you think," McIlroy said. "That's been one of my problems. I always think when I'm playing bad that it's further away than it is. That's just where I have to stay patient ... and know that if I put in the hard work, that the results will bear fruit. Whether that's sooner or later, it doesn't really matter." □



U.S. Scott Brown celebrates after making a bird in the 18th hole during the Puerto Rico Open PGA golf tournament final round in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico, Sunday, March 10, 2013.

Associated Press

RIO GRANDE, Puerto Rico (AP) — Scott Brown went

from a one-shot deficit to a one-shot victory Sunday in the Puerto Rico Open when he made a 4-foot birdie putt on the par-5 18th hole to beat Fabian

Gomez and capture his first PGA Tour title.

Brown closed with a 2-under 70, his final birdie set up with a 3-iron that he kept low to avoid palm trees and leave himself a 30-yard pitch short of the

Brown's late birdie gives him 1st PGA Tour win

green.

Gomez, trying to become the first Argentine to win on tour since Angel Cabrera at the 2009 Masters, was in perfect position off the tee at the 18th. That's when it went all around.

His second shot left him a tough lie in the bunker, and he blasted that over the green and into another bunker. He missed a 15-foot par putt for a 71, and then had to watch as Brown rapped in the winning putt.

"I thought I would need an eagle as well as he was playing," Brown said. "So I just stayed aggressive."

Brown finished at 20-under 268 to set the tournament record. He earned \$630,000, a two-year exemption on the PGA Tour and a spot in The Players Championship in May and the PGA Championship in August. Because the Puerto Rico Open is held the same week as a World Golf Championship in Florida, the win does not get the native of Augusta, Ga., into the Masters.

Even so, it was a stunning turnaround in so many ways. Late last year, Brown was on the putting green at Disney in the final event of the year, wondering

if he would have to go through the second stage of Q-school. He wound up at 148th on the money list for conditional status, which offered him limited starts on tour this year.

The Puerto Rico Open was one of them, and Brown made the most of it.

He had been planning on playing a full Web.com Tour schedule this year. Instead, he was headed to the Tampa Bay Championship next week and can spend the rest of his season in the big leagues, and start next season in Hawaii for the Tournament of Champions. □



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Bernard Hopkins and Tavoris Cloud fight during the fourth round of an IBF Light Heavyweight championship boxing match at the Barclays Center Saturday, March 9, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

Hopkins

Continued from Page 17

Hanging up the gloves is not Hopkins' first choice. He wants to keep fighting if the right opponent and network home can be found.

Hopkins won't return to a Philadelphia gym and train for a fight just to fight.

"I just want to sit down and see what's out there that's meaningful and if it's worth the mental training, the mental stress, the things I know how to do to win," Hopkins said.

He's coming off his most convincing victory in years in the 175-pound title fight against the 31-year-old Cloud. Hopkins connected on 169 of 417 punches and opened a cut over Cloud's left eye.

He stayed Sunday in New York and celebrated with a slice of cheesecake, a well-earned treat for a straight-edge fighter who abstains from alcohol, late nights, and sweets. He's crafted a lifestyle that's allowed him to fight as he pushes 50.

Winning at his age already makes him a novelty in a sport where so many fighters are finished in their 30s. He's always been adamant at going out on his own terms and building on

the legacy that already includes a dazzling 20 straight middleweight title defenses.

"I don't want to be a circus act," Hopkins said. "I'm a very proud man. They say fighters get old in the ring. No, fighters get old in the gym when no one's honest enough to tell them they're old."

Hopkins also ran into promoter Don King in the hotel Sunday morning. Cloud had been considered the last prospect in King's stable. King and Hopkins have long had an acrimonious relationship; Hopkins boasted last week of finishing off King once and for all. But King told Hopkins he was proud of him in their brief chat. Hopkins said he appreciated the gesture.

So, if not retirement, what's next? Hopkins said before the fight he'd like to face WBO light heavyweight champ Nathan Cleverly. But Cleverly has contractual commitments ahead that could make that fight an impossibility. Hopkins will keep looking for one more big fight on HBO or Showtime. If not, it's off he'll go as the oldest champ to quit on top.

"I have some history-making moments in me. Not a lot," he said, "but there are more. □"

Richie Porte wins Paris-Nice

COL D'EZE, France (AP)

— Australian rider Richie Porte won the Paris-Nice race after a dominant victory on the final time trial stage on Sunday, while promising American rider Andrew Talansky showed his potential with a second-place overall finish.

Porte was in the leader's yellow jersey overnight and only needed to protect his lead. But he attacked from the start and dominated his rivals on the uphill time trial, finishing a massive 23 seconds ahead of Talansky.

The 28-year-old Porte posted a time of 19 minutes, 16 seconds over the 9.6-kilometers from Nice to Col d'Eze to become the first Australian to win the race. "I can't believe it, the first Aussie to win such a big race," said Porte, who shook hands with Talansky as the American was warming down on a stationary bike. "It's just an honor to have my name up there with Bradley Wiggins, Tony Martin, all the big champions."

Porte follows in the footsteps of Sky teammate Wiggins, who won the race last year before going on to win the Tour de France. But after coming relatively late into professional cycling, he ruled out any likelihood of becoming a main contender on the Tour later this year.

"I'm still doing my apprenticeship, I'm still learning from Bradley and Chris Froome, so I don't expect to go to the Tour and ride for general classification," he said. "I'm in a good place at the moment and don't really want to change anything. ... Whatever happens we're going to have a hell of a team



Winner of the Paris-Nice cycling race, Richie Porte of Australia, center, poses for photographers on the podium with Andrew Talansky, of the US, wearing the best young riders jersey, second from left, second place of the race, Jean Christophe Peraud of France, second from right, third place of the race, Sylvain Chavanel of France, in best sprinter green jersey, left, and Johann Tschopp of Switzerland with polka dot jersey, right, in Eze, close to Nice, southern France, Sunday, March 10, 2013.

Associated Press

for the Tour de France." Talansky was 32 seconds behind Porte overnight, but the Garmin-Sharp rider slipped further behind to finish 55 seconds adrift in the final standings.

"I think I'm completely satisfied, I exceeded my own expectations and the team as a whole exceed the expectations we had coming in the race," Talansky, who won the third stage in a sprint finish, told The Associated Press by telephone. "Winning a stage was not something I had really expected, and riding in the yellow jersey for two days was all made possible by the team."

Talansky won the Tour de l'Ain in France last year and finished seventh overall in the Spanish Vuelta in his first participation in a major race. He will ride in his first Tour de France later this year and is targeting a top-10 finish.

"Just getting to ride down the Champs-Elysees would be a personal success, but obviously I am going there

with personal goals," the 24-year-old Talansky said. "On a basis of pure climbing and time-trialing, I have no doubt in my mind I can (finish top 10). You saw Tejay (van Garderen) got fifth last year, so really everything's possible. A few years down the line the podium's the goal, or maybe before that."

Garmin-Sharp team manager Jonathan Vaughters, a former Tour rider, thinks Talansky's raw ability and attitude can take him far.

"Andrew is an amazing talent, but not in a calculated way," Vaughters told the AP in an email. "He's emotional and he pushes himself harder than any cyclist I've seen. That's why I nicknamed him 'pit bull.' Once he latches his jaws onto something, he isn't letting go. Ever."

French rider Jean-Christophe Peraud finished third overall, 1:21 behind, despite coming off his bike, and American cyclist Van Garderen was 1:44 back in fourth spot. □

Stroke prevention device misses key goal in study

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

The future is unclear for a promising heart device aimed at preventing strokes in people at high risk of them because of an irregular heartbeat.

Early results from a key study of Boston Scientific Corp.'s Watchman device suggested it is safer than previous testing found, but may not be better than a drug that is used now for preventing strokes, heart-related deaths and blood clots in people with atrial fibrillation over the long term.

More than 2.7 million Americans and 15 million people worldwide have atrial fibrillation. The upper chambers of the heart quiver instead of beating properly. That lets blood pool in a small pouch. Clots can form and travel to the brain, causing a stroke.

The usual treatment is blood thinners such as warfarin, sold as Coumadin and other brands. But they have problems of their own and some are very expensive. The Watchman is intended to be a permanent solution that would not require people to take medications for the rest of their lives. It's a tiny expand-

able umbrella that plugs the pouch, and is inserted without surgery, through a tube pushed into a vein.

A study four years ago suggested the device was at

tiveness.

The new study was to be the top presentation Saturday at an American College of Cardiology conference in San Francisco.

the clinic have a financial stake in the device.

The study involved 407 patients — 269 assigned to get the device and 138 to get warfarin. It had three

The other two goals were estimated based on just 88 patients who have been tracked for 18 months after treatment. Strokes and blood clots occurred no more often with the device in those patients. However, the results suggest the device will not prove better than warfarin at 18 months on a wider measure — a combination of strokes, heart-related deaths or clots.

Whether that will be enough to win FDA approval remains to be seen. Dr. Gordon Tomaselli, a Johns Hopkins University heart specialist and former president of the American Heart Association, said he was reassured that the device seems safer, and said it might be approved just for people who cannot tolerate blood thinners long term.

"It's a mixed result," he said. "There still are complications" but fewer of them in the new study.

Dr. Hadley Wilson, cardiology chief at Carolinas HealthCare System in Charlotte, enrolled patients in the new study and predicts the FDA will require even more testing.

"It would be difficult for approvability without further study," he said. □



This undated image provided by Boston Scientific on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013 shows an experimental heart device called the Watchman.

Associated Press

least as good at preventing strokes as warfarin is, but the procedure to implant it led to strokes in some patients. Advisers to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration narrowly recommended approving the Watchman but the federal agency required a second test of its safety and effec-

But the group took the unprecedented step of pulling it from the program just before it was to go on because Boston Scientific released results early to investors.

The study was led by Dr. David Holmes Jr. of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He and

main goals, and it clearly met the first on safety — strokes, heart-related deaths, blood clots and serious complications a week after implant or release from the hospital.

"The early concerns about safety of the device ... have been alleviated," Holmes said.



In this undated photo released Sunday March 10, 2013, by a group of cardiologists lead by Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute in Kansas City, USA, showing The mummy Hatia (New Kingdom, 18th Dynasty, 1550 to 1295 BCE) being scanned in Cairo, Egypt, where it was found to have evidence of extensive vascular disease by CT scanning.

Associated Press

MARIA CHENG
AP Medical Writer
LONDON (AP) — Even without modern-day temptations like fast food or cigarettes, people had clogged arteries some 4,000 years ago, accord-

ing to the biggest-ever study of mummies searching for the condition. Researchers say that suggests heart disease may be more a natural part of human aging rather than being directly tied to con-

Even ancient mummies had clogged arteries

temporary risk factors like smoking, eating fatty foods and not exercising.

CT scans of 137 mummies showed evidence of atherosclerosis, or hardened arteries, in one third of those examined, including those from ancient people believed to have healthy lifestyles. Atherosclerosis causes heart attacks and strokes.

More than half of the mummies were from Egypt while the rest were from Peru, southwest America and the Aleutian islands in Alaska. The mummies were from about 3800 B.C. to

1900 A.D.

"Heart disease has been stalking mankind for over 4,000 years all over the globe," said Dr. Randall Thompson, a cardiologist at Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute in Kansas City and the paper's lead author.

The mummies with clogged arteries were older at the time of their death, around 43 versus 32 for those without the condition.

In most cases, scientists couldn't say whether the heart disease killed them. The study results were announced Sunday at a

meeting of the American College of Cardiology in San Francisco and simultaneously published online in the journal Lancet.

Thompson said he was surprised to see hardened arteries even in people like the ancient Aleutians who were presumed to have a healthy lifestyle as hunter-gatherers.

"I think it's fair to say people should feel less guilty about getting heart disease in modern times," he said. "We may have oversold the idea that a healthy lifestyle can completely eliminate your risk." □



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Facebook exec's new book urges women to 'lean in'

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For a book that has yet to be released, Sheryl Sandberg's "Lean In" — part feminist manifesto, part how-to career guide — has got a lot of people talking.

In the weeks leading up to the book's release on Monday, pundits and press hounds have been debating its merits. New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd called Sandberg a "PowerPoint Pied Piper in Prada ankle boots," and countless bloggers have suggested that Facebook's chief operating officer is the wrong person to lead a women's movement.

"Most of the criticism has to do with the position she is coming from," said Susan Yohn, professor and chair of Hofstra University's history department.

Sandberg, 43, hopes that her message of empowerment won't be obscured by the lofty pedestal from which she speaks. But is the multi-millionaire with two Harvard degrees too rich to offer advice? Too successful? Does her blueprint for success ignore the plight of poor and working-class women? Does the book's very premise blame women for not rising to top corporate positions at the same rate as men? And just how big is her house?

The questions keep coming largely because few people have actually read the book. But in it, Sandberg seems to have foreseen much of the criticism. The book acknowledges that critics might discount her feminist call to action with an easy-for-her-to-say shrug.

"My hope is that my message will be judged on its

merits," she writes in the preamble.

Sandberg recognizes that parts of the book are targeted toward women who are in a position to make decisions about their careers. Still, she writes, "we can't avoid this conversation. This issue transcends all of us. The time is long overdue to encourage more women to dream the possible dream and encourage more men to support women in the workforce and in the home."

Published by Alfred A. Knopf Inc., "Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead" will be launched Thursday with a reception in New York City hosted by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Arianna Huffington.

It's true that Sandberg is wealthy. She also has a supportive husband. Mark Zuckerberg is her boss. And, yes, her home in Menlo Park, California, has 9,000 square feet (836 square meters).

But as a woman in Silicon Valley, Sandberg hasn't exactly had it easy, and her tale shows she's no armchair activist. After all, not many women would march into their boss' office and demand special parking for expectant mothers. But Sandberg did just that when she worked at Google. Company founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin complied.

After Sandberg moved to Facebook in 2008, she became even more outspoken on the issues facing women in corporate America. At a time when other executives, male or female, have largely stayed quiet, Sandberg has delivered speeches on topics such as "Why we have too few women leaders."

And she's no workaholic.

In an age of endless work hours, Sandberg is famous for leaving the office at 5:30 to spend time with her family. She does admit, however, to picking up work once her kids have gone to bed.

Of the many inspirational slogans that hang on Facebook's walls, her favorite asks "What would you do if you weren't afraid?" "Lean In" is about pushing past fear.

"Fear is at the root of so many of the barriers that women face," she writes. "Fear of not being liked. Fear of making the wrong choice. Fear of drawing negative attention. Fear of overreaching. Fear of being judged. Fear of failure. And the holy trinity of fear: the fear of being a bad mother/wife/daughter."

Sandberg peppers the book with studies, reports and personal anecdotes to back up her premise — that for reasons both in and out of their control, there are fewer woman leaders than men in the business world and beyond. For example, the Fortune 500 has only 21 female CEOs. Sandberg is among the 14 percent of women who hold executive officer positions and the 16 percent of women who hold board of director seats, according to Catalyst.org.

For minority women, the numbers are even bleaker. Women of color, she writes, hold just 4 percent of top corporate jobs and 3 percent of board seats.

"A truly equal world would be one where women ran half our countries and companies and men ran half our homes. I believe that this would be a better world," she writes. "The laws of economics and many studies of diversity



In this Thursday, April 7, 2011, file photo, Sheryl Sandberg, Facebook's chief operating officer, speaks at a luncheon for the American Society of News Editors in San Diego.

Associated Press

tell us that if we tapped the entire pool of human resources and talent, our collective performance would improve."

At less than 200 pages, plus a good chunk of footnotes, "Lean In" does not purport to be the end-all solution to inequality. It deals with issues Sandberg sees as in women's control.

"Don't leave before you leave" is one of her catchphrases, aimed at successful women who gradually drop out of the workforce in anticipation of children they may someday bear.

"Make your partner a real partner" is another. She says everyone should encourage men to "lean in" at home by being equal partners in parenting and housework.

"Lean In" is, by and large, for women who are looking to climb the corporate ladder (which Sandberg calls a jungle gym), and ideally their male supporters. She hopes it's the start of a conversation. To that end, Sandberg plans to donate all of the proceeds to her newly minted non-profit, LeanIn.org. □

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Many left behind as Silicon Valley rebounds

MARTHA MENDOZA

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, California (AP)

— On a morning the stock market was sailing to a record high and a chilly storm was blowing into Silicon Valley, Wendy Carle stuck her head out of the tent she calls home to find city workers duct taping an eviction notice to her flimsy, flapping shelter walls.

"I have no idea where I'm going to go," she said, tugging on her black sweatshirt over her brown curls and scooping up Hero, an albino dog.

She glanced at the glimmering windows on a cluster of high-tech office buildings just blocks away and shook her head.

"Did you know Google shares hit \$840 each this morning?" she asked. "I just heard that on the radio." Carle, who did not want to give her age, used to manage apartments. Today she lives on a Supplemental Security Income disability payment of \$826 a month due to back and joint problems.

The Silicon Valley is adding jobs faster than it has in more than a decade as the tech industry roars back. Stocks are soaring and fortunes are once again on the rise.

But a bleaker record is also being set this year: Food stamp participation just hit a 10-year high, homelessness rose 20 percent in two years, and the average income for Hispanics, who make up one in four Silicon Valley residents, fell to a new low of about \$19,000 a year—capping a steady 14 percent drop over the past five years, according to the annual Silicon Valley Index released by Joint Venture Silicon Valley, representing businesses, and the philanthropic Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

Simply put, while the ultra-rich are getting even richer, record numbers of Silicon Valley residents are slipping into poverty.

"In the midst of a national economic recovery led by Silicon Valley's resurgence, as measured by corporate profits and record stock



Wendy Clarke, left, holds her neighbor's dog Hero as she is handed an eviction notice by San Jose city worker Rita Tabaldo as city worker Mark Ruffing, center, attaches a notice to a Clarke's tent at a tent city in San Jose, Calif., Tuesday, March 5, 2013.
Associated Press

prices, something strange is going on in the Valley itself. Most people are getting poorer," said Cindy Chavez, executive director of San Jose-based Working Partnerships USA, a nonprofit advocating for affordable housing, higher minimum wages and access to health care.

Nowhere is this growing disparity more obvious than this sprawling and trash-strewn 28-acre (11.3-hectare) tent city that authorities are trying to clean out. Beneath the sweeping shadow and roar of jets soaring in and out of nearby San Jose's international airport, residents here say times are so tight they have nowhere else to turn.

"This is the most ridiculous place ever," said Kristina Erbenich, 38, clambering onto her bike, a heavy pack on her back. The former chef said she spent \$14,000 on hotel rooms before her savings ran out. "If everyone around here is so rich, why can't they do something to help?"

United Way Silicon Valley CEO Carole Leigh Hutton wonders the same thing.

"How is it that in an area so very rich, we have so many people so very poor? Why can't we break that cycle? With all the brain power in the Silicon Valley, we should be able to solve these problems. But what we need is the collective will."

The causes for the growing disparity are complex, but largely come down to one thing: a very high cost of living. The median home price is \$550,000, and rents average just under \$2,000 a month for a two-bedroom apartment in this region that is home to many of the nation's wealthiest companies including Facebook, Apple Inc., Hewlett-Packard Co. and Google. For a family of four, just covering basic needs like rent, food, child-care and transportation comes to almost \$90,000 a year, according to the nonprofit Insight Center for Community Economic Development.

"The fact is that we have an economy now that's working well only for those at the very top," said Lawrence Mishel at the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. "Unless we adopt a new approach to economic policy, we're going to continue going down this path, which means growth that does not really benefit the great majority of people in this country."

Nationally, Mishel says the declining value of the federal minimum wage is a major factor driving inequality. On Monday, in an effort to address this, minimum hourly wages will rise from \$8 per hour to a new minimum of \$10 per hour, the nation's largest

minimum wage increase approved by voters last fall. While it's a dramatic shift for tens of thousands of workers, it's a minuscule fraction of the increases top earners in the region enjoyed last year.

Silicon Valley's top tech magnates inched up the Forbes annual list of the richest people on the planet released this week: Oracle Corp. CEO Larry Ellison had a reported net worth of \$43 billion, Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin had about \$23 billion each, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, was worth an estimated \$13.3 billion, and Laurene Powell Jobs, widow of Apple Inc. co-founder Steve Jobs, had an estimated worth of \$10.7 billion.

"The wealth numbers are staggering, they are absolutely staggering," said Alf Nucifora, who chairs the Luxury Marketing Council of San Francisco.

One in five ultra-wealthy Americans, defined by having a net worth above \$30 million, lives in California, stoked by the "wealth-generating cluster" of the Silicon Valley, according to WealthX, a company that tracks the super-rich. Stanford University, in Palo Alto, boasts 1,173 alumni with a net worth of more than \$30 million — only Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania have more.

"The Silicon Valley is an

ecosystem of human capital, venture capital, risk, an educational infrastructure," says WealthX president David Friedman. "All of those things combine into this glorious cocktail of prosperity."

But many residents, even those with college educations, are finding it tougher than ever to make it in the Silicon Valley.

Before the Great Recession, about 10 percent of people seeking food had at least some college education. Today, one in four who line up at food pantries for bags of free food have been to college. Last year the share of households in Silicon Valley earning less than \$35,000 rose two percentage points to 20 percent, according to the 2013 Silicon Valley Index.

"There are millionaires, even billionaires, who sit in their sunrooms watching me work in their gardens and they have no clue what's going on," said Sherri Bohan, a credentialed horticulturist who ran a landscape gardening firm for 30 years and raised two sons as a single mom. Today, retired and disabled, she picks up a free bag of groceries every week at her local food bank. Without the food she says she would go hungry. Silicon Valley's rich do give, and often significantly, but the money mostly leaves the area. Facebook's Zuckerberg gave \$100 million to Newark New Jersey, public schools in 2010; his \$500 million gift to the Silicon Valley Community Foundation last year has yet to be designated. The Google Foundation donated about \$11 million in 2011, according to its tax forms, largely to global environmental and health projects.

"Many people come here to work, but they have no idea what's really going on," said Lisa Sobrato Sorsini, whose Sobrato Family Foundation — funded by profits gained as a leading real estate and development firm in the region — is the single largest contributor to local charities in the region. □

Stringer leaving Sony in June, hands over to Hirai

YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Howard Stringer, who fought to bring a divided and struggling Sony Corp. together as the Japanese electronics and entertainment company's first foreign president, is retiring as chairman in June.

He announced his departure in New York in a speech at the Japan Society on Friday, which was confirmed by Tokyo-based Sony on Sunday. His retirement will come at an annual general shareholders' meeting in June.

Stringer, a Welsh-born American and 15-year employee at Sony, became president in 2005, when the once glorious maker behind the Walkman portable player was first starting to get slammed by the flashier Apple Inc. and the

nimbler Samsung Electronics Co.

The company, which makes the PlayStation 3 game console as well as "Spider-Man" movies, is still struggling. It has lost money for the last four years, and racked up its biggest loss in its 67-year history for the fiscal year through March 2012.

Stringer said he was ready to retire after handing over the helm last year to Kazuo Hirai. Stringer groomed Hirai, longtime head of Sony's video-game unit, who led its relative success as a brand in the U.S. market, to be his successor.

"I was pleased to hand the reins to Kazuo Hirai last year because I saw in him the right mix of skills to lead Sony, and I knew it was the right time to bring about generational change," Stringer said in the speech.

"Over the course of the past year, he has come into his own and is leading Sony with vision and authority."

Stringer said he will remain busy with charity work in education and medicine, and will continue as chair of the American Film Institute.

Hirai credited Stringer in the next-generation video-format battle by leading the Blu-ray camp, which included Sony, to victory; for pursuing efficiency and cost reductions, and expanding the film and music businesses to become "key profit drivers."

"Howard's unwavering dedication and leadership throughout his tenure as CEO enabled us to form the foundation to overcome huge challenges and the path to future growth," Hirai said in a statement.



In this Nov. 19, 2009 file photo, Sony Corp. Chief Executive Howard Stringer speaks during a press conference, in Tokyo, Japan. Associated Press

"I was able to learn so much from him as a business leader and person, particularly his incomparable ability to inspire and invigorate all of those around him."

Before joining Sony in 1997, Stringer had a 30-year career as a journalist, producer and executive at CBS Inc. His pivotal role was

seen as developing strategic links between the entertainment and electronics business — a plan Sony has pursued for years but is still not fully realized.

While president, Stringer pinpointed as the major problem the divisions within Sony's sprawling empire he disparagingly named "silos." □

EA apologizes for 'SimCity' launch woes

DERRIK J. LANG
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The creators of "SimCity" are hoping players don't move on after connectivity issues plagued the game's launch last week.

The updated edition of the 24-year-old metropolis-building franchise released last Tuesday requires players to be online — even if they're constructing virtual cities in the single-player mode. Several gamers weren't able to log on af-

ter "SimCity" launched, prompting some retailers to stop selling the Electronic Arts Inc. game.

Lucy Bradshaw, general manager at "SimCity" developer Maxis, said Friday more want-to-be mayors logged on than they anticipated and that the developers have been increasing server capacity since the snafu. "More people played and played in ways we never saw in the beta," said Bradshaw. "OK, we agree, that was

dumb, but we are committed to fixing it. In the last 48 hours, we increased server capacity by 120 percent. It's working — the number of people who have gotten in and built cities has improved dramatically." Bradshaw said EA would give players a free PC game to compensate for the hassles. Players who registered copies of "SimCity" will receive details on how to download the free game March 18.

"I know that's a little con-



In this file image provided by Electronic Arts/Maxis, concept art for a waterfront city is shown for the video game "SimCity."

Associated Press

trived — kind of like buying a present for a friend after you did something crummy," she said. "But we feel bad about what

happened. We're hoping you won't stay mad and that we'll be friends again when 'SimCity' is running at 100 percent." □

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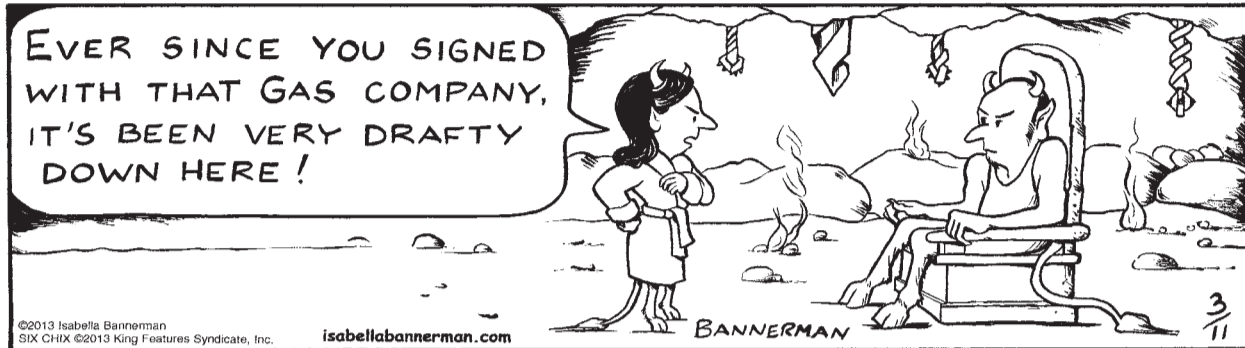


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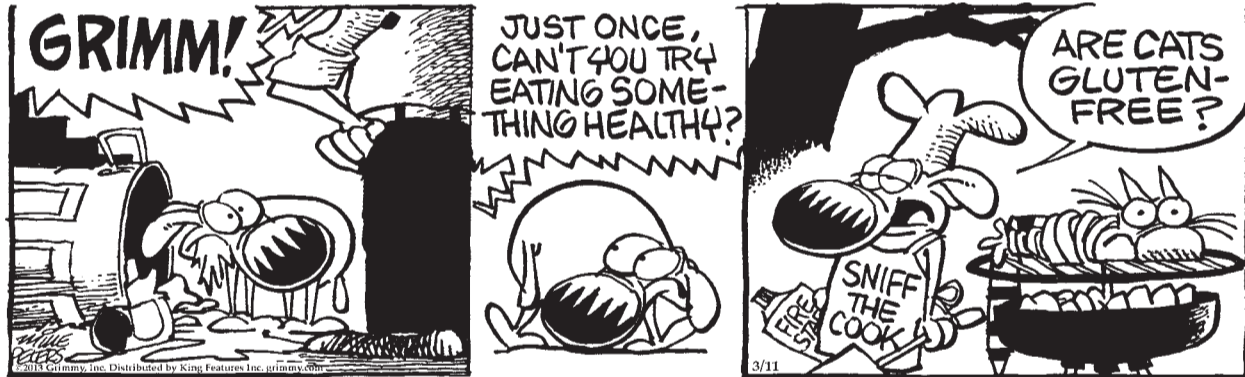
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			7				3	6
		5			4			1
	3		9	6	2			
5		8				2	9	
		9		1		3		
	2	6				1		7
			5	9	3		7	
9			4			6		
7	4				6			

Difficulty Level ★ 3/11

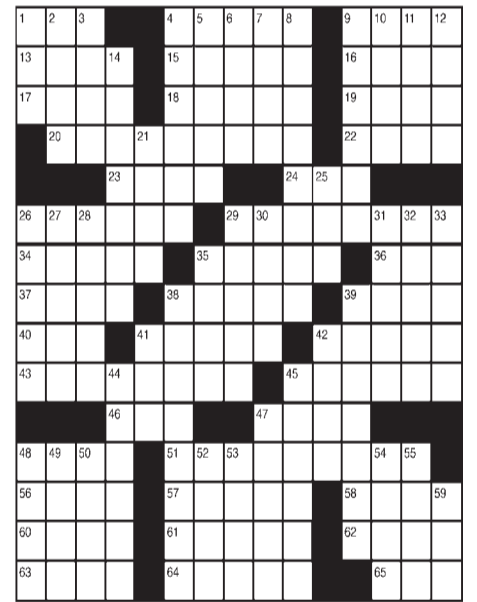
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

9	2	7	5	8	4	3	6	1
5	3	6	2	1	9	8	4	7
1	4	8	6	7	3	9	5	2
8	6	2	7	9	1	4	3	5
7	9	3	4	2	5	1	8	6
4	1	5	3	6	8	7	2	9
2	5	9	8	4	7	6	1	3
3	7	4	1	5	6	2	9	8
6	8	1	9	3	2	5	7	4

ACROSS

- 1 P.E. class building
- 4 Monte _; Monaco casino
- 9 Good fortune
- 13 Close by
- 15 Stay away from
- 16 Bit of land in the ocean
- 17 Disassemble
- 18 Pass on, as information
- 19 Jump
- 20 Mariners
- 22 _ interested; doesn't care
- 23 Division; split
- 24 Feminine pronoun
- 26 Conflict
- 29 Game bird
- 34 Huge lifting machine
- 35 Capital of South Korea
- 36 Milked animal
- 37 Ladder step
- 38 _ off; gets less angry
- 39 Part of the ear
- 40 _ up; misbehave
- 41 Melodramatic; trite
- 42 "Uncle Miltie"
- 43 Voice mail recordings
- 45 Sabotaged
- 46 Geisha's sash
- 47 _ away; flees
- 48 Actor Alan _
- 51 Large hairy spider
- 56 Chess piece
- 57 Once more
- 58 Small brook
- 60 Heavy book
- 61 Uptight
- 62 Poet Lazarus
- 63 Raced
- 64 Lawn tool
- 65 Pompous fool



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/11/13

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

3	Created	ZONE	MORAL	ODOR
4	Wine container	EWER	APACE	PANE
5	Turn aside, as the eyes	SEAR	NECTARINES	
6	Acting part	TSP	GARY	ANGST
7	Fib teller		OMEGA	DIE
8	Hero in an epic by Homer	AF	FLAME	PULSES
9	Easter flowers	SLIPS	YARDS	GOT
10	_ up; spends	PUTS	MELEE	MORE
11	Extended family group	SKA	SOAPY	FACTS
12	Saved	EN	MESH	DETEST
14	Laughing loudly		OAT	PREEN
21	Small flute	ALBUM	GEEK	TEE
25	Actor Holbrook	LOANS	SHARKS	BRAY
26	"Get lost!"	AVID	ADIOS	RISE
27	Cease-fire	NETS	DOPEY	ACES
28	_ and raves; carries on			
29	Lowly laborers			
30	Sacred			
31	Oak nut			
32	Barnes & _ Booksellers			
33	Rough woolen fabric			
35	Tender to the touch			
38	Ponder intently			
39	Free time			
41	Taxi			
42	Tap a baseball			
44	Saturated			
45	Narrow rug			
47	Elevate			
48	Painting and sculpturing			
49	Closed circle			
50	Capitol's roof, often			
52	Like fine wine			
53	Chimed			
54	Bean variety			
55	Donation for the poor			
59	_ Vegas, Nev.			

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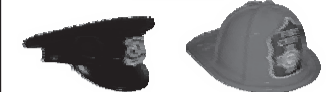
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Nuclear chief: U.S. plants safer after Japan crisis

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two years after the nuclear crisis in Japan, the top U.S. regulator says American nuclear power plants are safer than ever, though not trouble-free. A watchdog group calls that assessment overly rosy.

"The performance is quite good," Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Allison Macfarlane said in an interview with The Associated Press.

All but five of the 104 U.S. nuclear reactors were performing at acceptable safety levels at the end of 2012, Macfarlane said, citing a recent NRC report. "You can't engage that many reactors and not have a few that are going to have difficulty," she said. But the watchdog group, the Union of Concerned Scientists, has issued a scathing report saying nearly one in six U.S. nuclear reactors experienced safety breaches last year, due in part to weak oversight. The group accused the NRC of "tolerating the intolerable."

Using the agency's own data, the scientists group said 14 serious incidents, ranging from broken or impaired safety equipment to a cooling water leak, were reported last year. Over the past three years, 40 of the 104 U.S. reactors experienced one or more serious safety-related incidents that required additional action by the NRC, the report said.

"The NRC has repeatedly failed to enforce essential safety regulations," wrote David Lochbaum, director of the group's Nuclear Safety Project and author of the study. "Failing to enforce existing safety regu-



This Sept. 13, 2012 file photo shows the San Onofre nuclear power plant along the Pacific Ocean coastline in San Onofre, Calif.

Associated Press

lations is literally a gamble that places lives at stake." NRC officials disputed the report and said none of the reported incidents harmed workers or the public.

Monday marks the two-year anniversary of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami that crippled Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant. U.S. regulators, safety advocates and the industry are now debating whether safety changes imposed after the disaster have made the 65 U.S. nuclear plants safer.

New rules imposed by the NRC require plant operators to install or improve venting systems to limit core damage in a serious accident and set up sophisticated equipment to monitor water levels in pools of spent nuclear fuel. The plants also must improve protection of safety equipment installed after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and make sure they can handle damage to multiple reactors at the same time.

Macfarlane, who took over as NRC chairwoman last July, said U.S. plants are operating safely and are



In this Jan. 14, 2013 file photo, Alison Macfarlane, the chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, talks about her tour of the troubled San Onofre Nuclear Power Station in San Juan Capistrano, Calif.

Associated Press

making progress on implementing the new rules, which impose a deadline for completion of 2016 — five years after the Fukushima disaster. "So far, industry seems to be cooperating," she said.

The NRC has been working closely with plant operators "to make sure they understand what we are requiring and that we understand about their situation as well," said Macfarlane. Even so, the U.S. industry faces a range of difficulties. Problem-plagued plants in Florida and Wisconsin are slated for closure, and four other reactors remain offline because of safety concerns. Shut-down reactors include two at the beleaguered San Onofre nuclear power plant in southern California, which hasn't produced electricity since January 2012, when a tiny radiation leak led to the discovery of damage to hundreds of tubes that

carry radioactive water. Macfarlane said the agency won't let the San Onofre plant reopen until regulators are certain it can operate safely, which may take several months. Joseph Pollock, vice president of the Nuclear Energy Institute, an industry trade association, said plant operators are "working aggressively" to meet the 2016 timeline set by the NRC and have already spent upwards of \$40 million on safety efforts. Utilities have bought more than 1,500 pieces of equipment, from emergency diesel generators to sump pumps and satellite phones, Pollock said, and the industry is setting up two regional response centers in Memphis and Phoenix. The industry expects to meet the 2016 timeline "with the current understood requirements," Pollock said. If the requirements change or new regulations are added, "then

obviously we would have to review that," he said.

Even before the new rules are completely in place, the NRC is considering a new regulation related to the Japan disaster: requiring nuclear operators to spend tens of millions of dollars to install filtered vents at two dozen reactors. NRC staff recommended the filters as a way to prevent radioactive particles from escaping into the atmosphere after a core meltdown. The filters are required in Japan and throughout much of Europe, but U.S. utilities say they are unnecessary and expensive.

The Nuclear Energy Institute said filters may work in some situations, but not all. The group is calling for a "performance-based approach" that allows a case-by-case determination of whether filtering is the best approach to protect public safety and the environment.

"We're not against filtering. It's how you achieve it," said Marvin Fertel, the group's president and CEO. The filter issue has ignited a debate on Capitol Hill. Lawmakers from both parties have sent out a flurry of dueling letters for and against the proposal. Twenty-eight Republicans in the House and Senate, joined by more than two dozen House Democrats, have sent letters opposing the requirement as hasty and unnecessary.

A dozen Democratic senators and five House members have written letters backing the requirement, which they say will ensure public safety in the event of a Japan-style accident. The five-member commission is expected to vote on the issue in the next few weeks. "It's not the time to be rash with hasty new rules, especially when the NRC has added 40-plus 'safety enhancements' " to its initial requirements following the Japan disaster, said Sen. David Vitter of Louisiana, senior Republican on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. □

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In this undated photo provided by NBC, Valerie Harper, right, poses with Savannah Guthrie of NBC's "Today" at Harper's home in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Cancer-stricken Valerie Harper not saying good-bye

By FRAZIER MOORE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — She has incurable cancer, but Valerie Harper says she's not ready to say good-bye and she's keeping herself open to a miracle.

In her first TV interview since disclosing her diagnosis last week, the 1970s sitcom star tells the "Today" show's Savannah Guthrie that "'incurable' is a tough word." People "hear it as this death sentence," she explains.

But Harper insists she's "more than hopeful. I have an intention to live each moment fully."

"I'm not dying until I do," she says. "I promise I won't."

Harper, 73, has been diagnosed with a rare brain cancer and told she has as little as three months to live. She got the news less than two months ago during her book tour for her new memoir, "I, Rhoda."

Harper won fame playing Rhoda Morgenstern on TV's "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and its spinoff, "Rhoda." She won four Emmys in the role.

Harper says "it feels awful damn good to be open about (her illness), face it and see what you can do. If you die, you're not a failure. You're just somebody who had cancer, and that's the outcome."

In the meantime, she's telling herself to keep "your thoughts open to infinite possibility and keep yourself open to miracles."

The interview is scheduled to air on NBC's "Today" on Monday.

In addition, Harper is scheduled to appear on Monday's edition of the syndicated talk show "The Doctors." □

'Downloaded,' film on music downloading, at SXSW

By CHRIS TOMLINSON
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — "Downloaded," a documentary film exploring the history of sharing music on the Internet, made its world premiere Sunday at South by Southwest, a festival that marries music, technology and film.

Director Alex Winter focuses on Napster, the file sharing network that allowed 25 million people to share 80 million recordings in what became an early social network. The service allowed users to download music for free from each other's computers until a lawsuit brought by the recording industry forced it to shut down in 2001.

But by then, a new generation had become accustomed to getting music for

free, and the industry and musicians saw revenues plummet. The founders of Napster, Shawn Fanning and Sean Parker, participate in the film, but Winter allows all sides of the debate over free music to make their cases, often using archival news footage. "It wasn't hard for me to balance the two points of view, because I have two points of view," Winter said. "I don't think the old school is right to try to criminalize the downloading generation, and I don't think the downloading generation is right saying that everything should be free." The story of Napster echoes today, as the Justice Department pursues the extradition of Kim Dotcom, the founder of MegaUpload, where users share videos. □

Disney's 'Oz' bewitches box office with \$80M debut



This film image released by Disney Enterprises shows James Franco, left, and Michelle Williams in a scene from "Oz the Great and Powerful."

Associated Press

DERRIK J. LANG
AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Oz the Great and the Powerful" clicked with moviegoers.

Disney's 3-D prequel to the

classic L. Frank Baum tale "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" debuted in first place and earned \$80.3 million at the weekend box office in the U.S. and Canada and \$69.9 million overseas, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Oz" tells the origin of James Franco as the wizard with Mila Kunis, Michelle Williams and Rachel Weisz as the trio of witches he encounters after crashing in the mystical realm of Oz.

The updated take on "Oz," which was directed by original "Spider-Man" trilogy mastermind Sam Raimi, was a gamble that looks like it will pay off for the Walt Disney Co. The film reportedly cost \$200 million and opened a week after "Jack the Giant Slayer," another big-budget 3-D extravaganza that reimagines a classic tale, flopped in its opening weekend, debuting with \$28 million at the box office.

"Oz" was also golden overseas. The film conjured up \$69.9 million from 46 foreign markets, including Russia and the United Kingdom. "Oz" could follow in the footsteps of Disney's

"Alice in Wonderland," another costly 3-D film, which opened on the same weekend in 2010 and went on to gross over \$1 billion worldwide.

"'Oz' is the shot in the arm that the industry needed," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "We had six consecutive weekends where the box office was down. As a result, we're at a 12-and-a-half percent deficit year-to-date on box office revenues versus last year. Not a lot of movies have worked. There have been several underperformers."

In its second weekend, "Jack" stomped out second place behind "Oz" with \$10 million, dropping 62 percent since its opening weekend. It earned just \$4.9 million overseas. "Jack," based on the Jack and the Beanstalk fable, was directed by Bryan Singer and stars Nicholas Hoult and Ewan McGregor. The only other new release this weekend, the FilmDistrict revenge drama "Dead Man Down" starring Colin Farrell and Noomi Rapace, opened in fourth place with \$5.3 million. □



This Feb. 6, 2013 file photo shows actress Tiffani Thiessen posing for a portrait in New York.

ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Tiffani Thiessen is probably best known for her role as Kelly Kapowski on "Saved by the Bell," but the actress says she had no idea at that time how popular the teenage sitcom was. "I mean, I was so young. I

Associated Press

was 15 when I started that show," Thiessen, now 39, said in a recent interview. "I remember Mark-Paul (Gosselaar) and I touring the (United) States and going overseas. ... That was the first time that I realized what an impact that show had when 5,000, 6,000, 10,000 kids were showing

Tiffani Thiessen thankful she missed TMZ era

up to these malls and these places where we would sit there for hours and do autograph signings and pictures and stuff," she said. "That's when I was really like, 'Where am I? What is this?' Kids wanted my empty cup of water and, you know, things like that. It was strange. I had to constantly remind myself that what I was doing was a job and I enjoyed my job and I was going back to school and do homework like all these other kids who were sitting here."

"Saved by the Bell," which also starred Mario Lopez and Dustin Diamond, aired from 1989 to 1993.

The show now airs in syndication and remains a part of the pop culture zeitgeist. Jimmy Fallon tried — unsuccessfully — to rally the cast for a reunion in 2009. (They did pose for a People magazine cover.) Justin Bieber wore a T-shirt with the likeness of Kelly Kapowski to the MuchMusic Awards in 2011.

Thiessen is grateful that she grew up in the limelight before TMZ and other 24-hour media outlets and gossip blogs came along on the Internet.

"Thank God I missed that. The photographers that would follow us were like for Teen Beat and Bop (magazines)," she said. She said the limelight got a little more intense with her next big role as Valerie Malone on the '90s romance drama "Beverly Hills, 90210." But it was "nothing like (what) the kids are going through now."

Thiessen credits Aaron Spelling, who was an executive producer of "90210," with giving her an interesting perspective on fame. "Aaron Spelling said something to me a long time ago that was really interesting," she said. "He said ... movie stars are in big screens and you have to go see them in the theater. TV stars are in people's homes and they feel much

more of a connection because you're watching them in your home, and I thought that was really interesting because it was kind of true. A lot of people you know would stop me on the street thinking they went to high school with me."

Thiessen divides her time between Los Angeles, where she lives with her husband and daughter, and New York City, where she films the USA series "White Collar," which aired its season four series finale this week.

Matt Bomer plays former con man Neal Caffrey, who is working with the FBI to catch white-collar criminals. Her character is married to agent Peter Burke, who supervises Caffrey.

"If I wasn't an actor, I probably would be an event planner, which is why my character, Elizabeth, on 'White Collar' is an event planner. It was kind of my idea. Presentation is huge for me. □

Marvel releasing some 700 No. 1 issues digitally

MATT MOORE
Associated Press

In comics, the first issue is where the story starts and the legend begins.

For readers, a print copy of issue one can be hard to find and expensive to buy. But those rules don't apply to tablets, laptops and smartphones both for comics fans and those curious about characters they may have seen in film or on television.

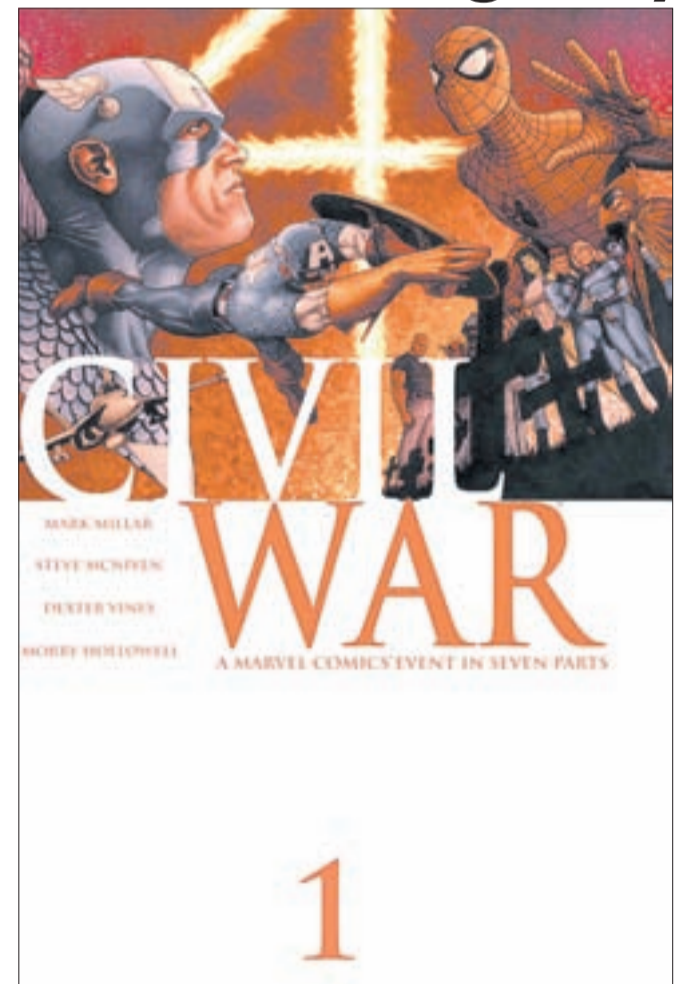
Part of that fascination with superheroes and their growing cachet in popular culture is why Marvel Entertainment, home to the Fantastic Four, the X-Men and the Avengers, among others, is making more than 700 first issues available to digital readers starting

Sunday for free through the Marvel app and the company's website. After Tuesday, they'll be sold for \$1.99 to \$3.99 per issue.

The titles go from the 1960s Silver Age to contemporary issues with characters including Mr. Fantastic, Wasp, Power Man and Iron Fist, said David Gabriel, senior vice president of sales. "This is aimed at attracting fans from all walks of life — those who know our characters from the big screen, those who were readers but fell out of the habit and our long-term fans too," he said. "We believe that if we get those fans in the door, they'll stay and help grow this industry, with purchases both in comic stores and via digital comic outlets."

The publisher went through its catalog of more than 13,000 titles that are already available digitally and plucked out the No. 1 issues with historic ones like "Amazing Spider-Man" by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko or the "Fantastic Four" by Lee and Jack Kirby as well as modern titles like "Civil War," Joss Whedon's "Astonishing X-Men" and characters and teams like the Uncanny Avengers and Guardians of the Galaxy, too.

"We never want fans to feel like they need to have read it all. Of course we want them to want to check out those stories, but the beauty of these No. 1 issues is that each is an entry point," he said. □



This image provided by Marvel Entertainment shows the cover of the first issue of "Civil War." In comics, the first issue is where the story starts and the legend begins.

Associated Press

Keep calm and Carry on...buying

Evgeny Morozov
© 2013 New York Times News Service

Evgeny Morozov, author of "To Save Everything, Click Here: The Folly of Technological Solutionism," is a guest columnist.

Our fully automated, meme-conscious information economy might seem a paradise of reason and rationality. But it also has a seamier, surreal side. Just consider how the phrase "Keep Calm and Rape a Lot" came to appear on T-shirts sold on Amazon.co.uk.

What fool decided to design and sell such clothing? That's the problem: No one did. They were the unfortunate but revealing result of an algorithm that generates random phrases and slaps them on print-on-demand T-shirts, on the odd chance that someone might buy them.

The T-shirts come from Solid Gold Bomb, a company that tried to parody the phrase "Keep Calm and Carry On," originally the text of a World War II propaganda poster undergoing a sudden cultural renaissance.

Having found its golden meme, Solid Gold Bomb wrote a computer script to churn out hundreds of T-shirt designs riffing on the phrase — "Keep Calm and Dream On" to "Keep Calm and Dance Off." In theory, Solid Gold Bomb could be selling billions of them, for they only become "real" once an order is made. It's the infinite monkey theorem, applied to products: With time, the algorithms would produce a T-shirt someone wants.

Amazon does not vet such items, and Solid Gold Bomb is too solid to care. The advent of 3D printing will create an explosion in such phantom products. Books got there first: Amazon brims with algorithmically produced "literature." Philip M. Parker, a marketing professor, must be the most productive, erudite writer in history: Amazon lists him as author of more than 100,000 books. His secret? An algorithm to generate page-turners like "Webster's Estonian to English Crossword Puzzles" and "The 2007-2012 Outlook for Premoistened Towelettes and Baby Wipes in Greater China" ("The moist towelette is an essential part of the lunchbox, and with the new global economy, this volume is essential," reads its only review). Some of these books might be useful, but much of algorithmic literature exists for one reason: to swindle unsuspecting customers.

When the former Wired editor Chris Anderson wrote of "the long tail" — the idea that, thanks to the Internet, companies can look beyond blockbusters and make money on obscure products — he never warned us it would be so long and so ugly. Somehow, well-crafted niche products have surrendered to algorithmic schlock.

But while algorithms, 3D printers and Web stores have solved the supply problem, demand-side uncertainties remain. If there are, indeed, psychopaths who want a "Keep Calm and Rape a Lot" T-shirt, how do they find it? Or, rather, how does it find them? Whoever matches existing weirdos with nonexistent weird trinkets could be the next Google.

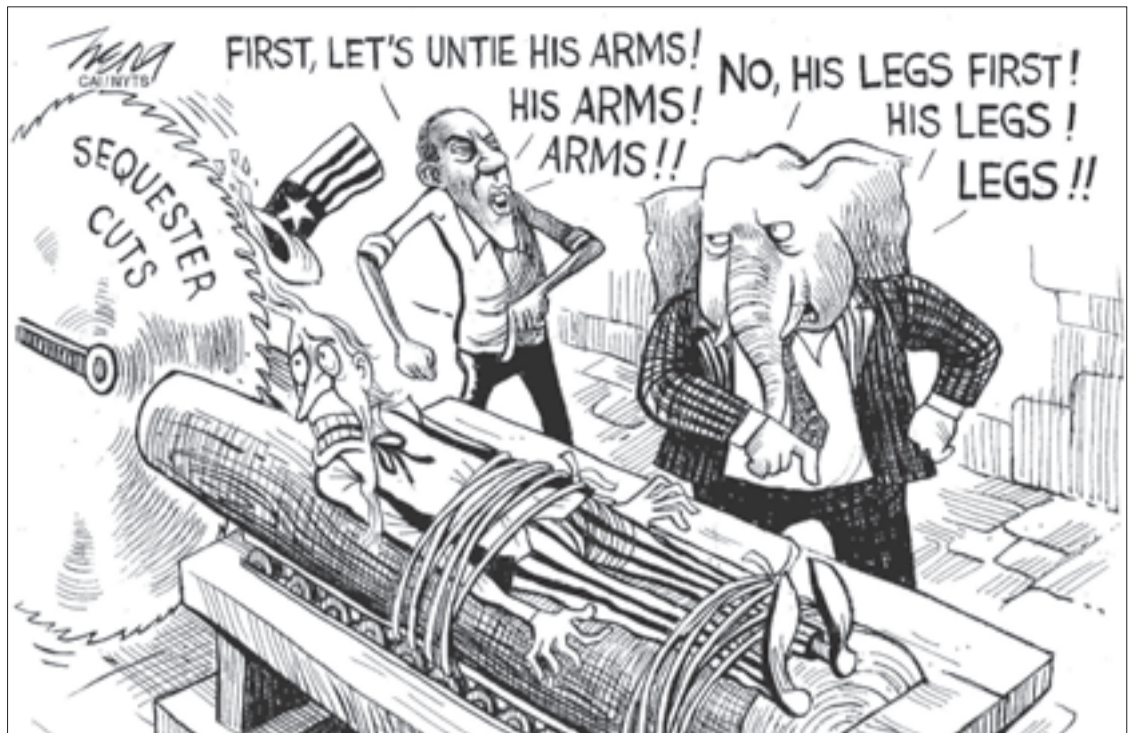
Or could that dubious honor go to Google itself? Organizing the world's information was just prelude to a far more important goal: becoming a universal shopping gateway. Last week's news that it will introduce Shopping Express, a same-day delivery service to contend with Amazon, confirms the obvious: Shopping is essential to Google's future. By analyzing our information streams, it can predict what purchases make us happy, and remind us to keep shopping. It already underpins the Google's most intriguing smartphone app, Field Trip.

A future of frictionless, continuous shopping fits with Google's vision for a world where we no longer need to search for anything, since we ourselves are perpetually monitored, with the relevant product or information sent to us based on perceived need. "Autonomous search," they call it.

Ray Kurzweil, Google's director of engineering, even wants to give us a "cybernetic friend" that could satisfy our wants before we are aware of them. By monitoring our conversations, emails and reading habits, he said, "it may pop up and say: 'Well, you mentioned two weeks ago you were worried that vitamin B12 isn't getting into your cells. There was new research just released two seconds ago that speaks to that.'" To Kurzweil, who once confessed to taking 250 nutritional supplements a day, this might be a useful service. As for the rest of us, I'm not so sure: According to Google Scholar, 13,000 scientific papers and books that mention vitamin B12 came out last year alone.

While Google promises to quell our information hunger, that hunger will only intensify once a few seemingly innocent factoids are thrown our way. The French philosopher Michel Serres is right: "Neither information nor a drug fix ever gives any happiness when you have it, but will make you miserable when you don't."

Google's "cybernetic friend" will turn us into anxious information machines, our neurosis curable only by endless consumption of its recommendations. Remember Clippy, Microsoft's annoying office assistant? The "cybernetic friend" is just like that, only on steroids and with a second job as a pushy salesman. "Keep Calm and Buy Less": Now, that's a T-shirt it's unlikely to recommend. □



What hath Rand Paul wrought?



Ross Douthat
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The Republican Party built an advantage on foreign policy across generations, and then began demolishing it 10 years ago this month. What the Cold War made, the invasion of Iraq largely unmade: beginning in 2003, a party that had long promised — and mostly delivered — peace through strength became identified with an intelligence fiasco, a botched occupation and the squandering of American resources, credibility and lives. Two Republicans running for president in 2012, Jon Huntsman and Ron Paul, seemed to have some grasp of what Iraq had done to their party's reputation. But they were both niche candidates who spoke to small constituencies (libertarians in Paul's case, journalists in Huntsman's). Paul's isolationism was hectoring and eccentric, with a "we had it coming" view of terrorism that the Republican electorate was never likely to embrace. Huntsman's attempt to rehabilitate foreign policy realism was as passionless and flat-footed as his entire campaign. Neither had much influence on Mitt Romney, whose foreign policy rhetoric left the impression that his party had learned nothing from the Bush era.

But where Huntsman and Paul the elder mostly failed, Rand Paul has been enjoying remarkable success. The Kentucky senator's recent ascent to prominence, which achieved escape velocity with last week's 13-hour filibuster delaying the confirmation of President

Barack Obama's nominee to lead the CIA, hasn't just made the younger Paul one of the most talked-about politicians in Washington today. It has offered the first real sign that the Republican Party might someday escape the shadow of the Iraq war and enter the post-9/11 era. Officially, Paul's filibuster was devoted to a specific question of executive power — whether there are any limits on the president's authority to declare American citizens enemy combatants and deal out death to them. But anyone who listened (and listened) to his remarks, and put them in the context of his recent speeches and votes and bridge-building, recognized that he was after something bigger: a reorientation of conservative foreign policy thinking away from hair-trigger hawkishness and absolute deference to executive power. Exactly where such a reorientation would take the party is unclear. Depending on the context, Paul can sometimes sound like a libertarian purist, sometimes like a realist in the Brent Scowcroft mode and sometimes like — well, like a man who was an ophthalmologist in Bowling Green, Ky., just a few short years ago.

But if his ideas are still evolving, his savvy is impressive. Paul has recognized, as a figure like Huntsman did not, that to infuse new ideas into a moribund party you need to speak the language of the base, and sell conservatives as well as moderates on your proposed course correction. (There's a reason his recent foreign policy speech was delivered at the Heritage Foundation — normally a redoubt of Cheneyism — and his two big interviews after his filibuster were with Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh.) And he's exploited partisan incentives to bring his fellow Republicans around to his ideas, deliberately picking battles — from the Libya intervention to drone warfare

— where a more restrained foreign policy vision doubles as a critique of the Obama White House. Those incentives, rather than an intellectual sea change on the right, explain why his filibuster enjoyed so much Republican support. (Most of the senators who gave him an assist were just looking for a chance to score points against a Democratic White House.) But if Paul hasn't won the party over to his ideas, he's clearly widened the space for intra-Republican debate. And if he runs for president in 2016, that debate will become more interesting than it's been for many, many years. There's a lesson here for his fellow Republican politicians — though that lesson is not, I repeat not, that they should all remake themselves as Paul-style libertarians. One can appreciate the Kentucky senator's evolution away from his father's crankiness without completely trusting that it's genuine, and on domestic policy a swing to libertarian purism is something the present Republican Party doesn't need. Rather, the lesson of Paul's ascent is that being a policy entrepreneur carries rewards as well as risks — and that if you know how to speak the language of the party's base, it's possible to be a different kind of Republican without forfeiting your conservative bona fides. This is something that the party's other ambitious officeholders have been slow to recognize. Since the 2012 election, a number of prominent Republicans — Eric Cantor, Bobby Jindal, Marco Rubio, and so on — have given speeches that tiptoe toward new ideas, new policies, new visions of what their party might stand for and support. But ultimately they've all stopped short of actually breaking with the policy consensus that sent Romney down to defeat. Paul, by contrast, has actually challenged that consensus in a substantive and constructive way. And far from being excommunicated for it, he's been rewarded with greater prominence and increased conservative support. For those with ears, let them hear. □

Time spin-off highlights risks facing magazines

RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — From Sports Illustrated to People to its namesake magazine, Time Inc. was always an innovator. But now when the troubled magazine industry is facing its greatest challenge, the company Henry Luce founded is struggling to find its way in a digital world.

Time Warner Inc.'s decision to shed its Time Inc. magazine unit last week underscores the challenges facing an industry that remains wedded to glossy paper even as the use of tablet computers, e-readers and smartphones explodes.

Although the new devices might seem to present an array of opportunity for Time Inc.'s 95 magazine titles, many publishers have found the digital transition troublesome. Digital editions of magazines represented just 2.4 percent of all U.S. circulation in the last half of 2012, or about 7.9 million copies, according to the Alliance for Audited Media.

Although that number more than doubled from a year earlier, it's hardly spectacular growth, considering that the number of tablets in the U.S. also more than doubled last year to 64.8 million, according to research firm IHS.

The fact that so few tablet owners are buying magazines on their devices is a concern because both ad and circulation revenue from print editions have fallen more than 20 percent since their peak near the middle of the last decade. And, according to forecasts, there's no recovery in sight. "We have to get much better at capturing those (digital) readers," said Mary Berner, president of The Association of Magazine Media.

Before publishers can accomplish that, they need to address a number of problems, experts say. First, the range of free content on the Web has given some readers the impression that it's not necessary to pay for the digital versions of magazine stories. Also, there's



In this photo provided by Time Inc., via PR Newswire, a copy of Sports Illustrated magazine, left, is shown as Sports Illustrated digital subscriptions are displayed on smartphones, tablets, laptops and a desktop computer. Associated Press



This Nov. 19, 2008 file photo shows President Barack Obama featured in a special issue of Time magazine on a New York newsstand. Associated Press

no industry standard for pricing. Publishers aren't in agreement over whether to include free access to digital copies as part of a print subscription.

There are technical challenges, too. It's been difficult for magazine makers to create compelling digital editions that fit every screen size and resolution. Berner acknowledges that customer confusion is part of what's preventing the magazine industry from selling more digital copies. She is working with industry players like Time Inc., Hearst Corp., Conde Nast and Meredith Corp. to standardize both the format of magazines and the way they are sold.

"There used to be a couple ways you used to be able to get a magazine: you could subscribe or buy it at the newsstand. Now there's 25 ways. Joe Average consumer just isn't that clear on it yet," she

Elle magazine, for instance, costs \$155,680 to reach the readers of 1.1 million copies, or about \$141 for every 1,000, according to a rate card that the magazine posted online. Compare that to a 30-second ad during this year's Super Bowl, which—at most—cost \$37 per 1,000 TV households, or \$4 million to reach 108 million TV sets, according to CBS. A typical website ad costs in the single-digit dollars per 1,000 viewers, although pricing varies by ad size and other features.



In this Thursday, April 29, 2010 photo, an issue of Time Magazine is shown on a newsstand, in New York. Associated Press

said. "The confusing part is hurting." Advertisers are making matters worse. The ad industry has been slow to warm to the notion that they still need to pay top dollar to advertise in the tablet editions of magazines, even though much cheaper website ads are just a finger-swipe away. But many magazines still command significant premiums. A full-page ad in

Magazine insiders say the price of their ad space is worth it because ads reach a targeted, engaged audience that actually wants to see the commercial come-ons. Even so, advertisers bristle at the idea that tablet editions command the same price premium as print pages.

"The costs per thousand are out of whack," said

George Janson, director of print for GroupM, a subsidiary of advertising agency giant WPP, whose clients include Ikea, Mars Inc., Marriott and Xerox. "The advertising challenge is there haven't been a lot of metrics. There's very little accountability. That's starting to change now at the advertisers' insistence."

The magazine industry's slim but growing digital subscriber base could help convince advertisers of the value of magazines. Research firm eMarketer predicts that while print magazine ad revenue will remain flat at about \$15.1 billion from 2011 to 2016, digital magazine ad revenue will grow from \$2.7 billion to \$4.1 billion over the same period. "Tablets have reinvigorated magazine ad revenues," said eMarketer spokesman Clark Fredricksen. But even as overall magazine advertising revenue grows, it's not expanding nearly as fast as U.S. ad spending as a whole. The predicted turnaround won't return the industry to pre-recession levels—and it may come too late for Time Warner Inc. Revenue at its Time Inc. unit slipped to \$3.4 billion in 2012, about 38 percent below its peak in 2004. Operating profit declined to \$420 million, down by more than half of the \$934 million posted eight years earlier.

Analysts say spinning off the magazines into a separate, publicly traded company reduces Time Warner's risk. On Friday, two days after Time Warner announced the spin-off, its shares hit a 52-week high of \$57.85. Tony Wible, an analyst with Janney Capital Markets, said the spin-off frees Time Warner from the uncertainty of the magazine industry's digital transition. "It has the potential to save money, increase revenue per ad, improve measurement, and increase distribution," he wrote in a research note, "but it also competes with a growing number of free online publications and there may be few ad slots in the new medium." □